FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 JUNE 1983

PLO Affairs

Ten Palestinians were killed or wounded when their convoy was ambushed on the Homs-Damascus road in Syria several hours after PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's return to Damascus, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing WAFA. The PLO official commanding the convoy did not identify the attackers but said the incident could not have occurred without Syrian connivance, the radio noted. In earlier reports on 'Arafat's activities in Damascus, the radio said he discussed the crisis in Fatah with a senior Syrian official, received an "important" message from Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov, and met with Palestinian officials including the PNC speaker and leaders of the PFLP and DFLP. 'Arafat sent a reply message to Andropov, the radio said, and confirmed that the Soviet Union is mediating in the dispute. However, the PLO leader's arrival in Damascus was not mentioned by monitored Syrian media and 'Arafat told journalists that he would "not now" be meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, according to KUNA. Radio Monte Carlo subsequently reported thatthe Syrian authorities had asked 'Arafat "to leave Syrian territory immediately and banned him from returning to Syria." The radio alsoreported that Khalil al-Wazir, now in Al-Biqa' has also been banned from entering Syrian territory.

Before leaving Lebanon, 'Arafat inspected PLO positions in the Al-Biqa' valley in order to ascertain their ability to confront "any possibilities" arising from the Syrian "interference" in Palestinian internal affairs, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported.Citing the political editor of the Palestinian news agency, the radio said the PLO knows exactly which Syrian officials were behind the outbreak of the "fabricated crisis" within Fatah and also knows details of meetings in Damascus at which the final touches of the mutiny were completed. The PLO calls on the Arabs to put an end to Syria's interference in its internal affairs, the radio added. A WAFA statement likewise ridiculed Syrian denials of interference in Fatah's affairs and insinuated that the Fatah dissidents and Ahmad Jibril's PFLP-General Command are agents of Syrian intelligence, KUNA reported. Meanwhile, Damascus television reported that the PFLP and DFLP leaders issued a statement reaffirming their desire for a peaceful outcome of the PLO's internal problems through democratic dialogue, maintenance of unity, and reinforcement of internal democracy and collective leadership. The statement called for an immediate halt to all individual statements issued in the name of the PLO without consultation through Palestinian legitimate institutions.

In related diplomatic developments, the Saudi foreign minister delivered a message to Jordan's King Husayn from King Fahd dealing with the current pressure on the PLO, Amman radio reported. Algiers radio announced that the Algerian foreign minister would shortly fly to Damascus as a personal envoy of President Chadli Bendjedid for talks with both President al-Asad and the PLO leaders. Egyptian officials also discussed the PLO's problems and an Egyptian Cabinet statement stressed the importance of maintaining the PLO's legitimate leadership and Palestinian unity, MENA reported.

Syria

Israel is expected to launch an attack against Syria, "but although Israel may be able to begin the war, it will not be able to end it," President al-Asad declared in an interview with Hungarian television broadcast by Damascus radio. Asked about the Syrian-Israeli military balance, Al-Asad said that while Israel is overstocked with diversified and sophisticated weapons, Syria's military situation is "adequate." The Syrian leader also said the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front needs to be more effective, reaffirmed his support for unity and dialogue within Fatah, and denied knowledge of an impending visit to the United States by Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Israel

Israel will try to avoid a confrontation with the Syrians in Lebanon, but if a confrontation occurs, the Soviet Union will find it hard not to intervene, Defense Minister Moshe Arens told the Jewish Agency Convention in remarks reported by IDF radio. Arens also expressed concern about Egypt's "unprecedented military buildup," asserting that this is a problem because the Israelis cannot be sure it will never be used against them.

Saudi Arabia

A Riyadh radio commentary said Israeli intentions to build a nuclear station near the occupied West Bank town of Nabulus add a "new and grave dimension to the process of confiscation of Arab land."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi aircraft attacked an "important" Iranian naval target in the northern part of the Gulf, scoring a direct, effective hit, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio. Tehran radio announced earlier that Iraqi Islamic revolutionaries blew up an Iraqi oil pumping station near Mosul on 17 June, thereby dealing a "deadly blow" to Iraq's oil exports.

Afghanistan

Former King of Afghanistan Mohammad Zahir Shah has called for a "representative and united front" to coordinate the activity of the Afghan resistance and represent it diplomatically. Speaking in an interview with *Le Monde*, Zahir Shah said the Soviet-imposed DRA leaders are "bound to disappear" but he nevertheless favored a political solution to the Afghan crisis.

Pakistan

Thirty-four people were killed and sixty-four others were wounded in a Sunni-Shi'ite clash in the mountainous Parachinar area, AFP reported.

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PLO Condemns Syria's Intervention in Fatah Split

Statement Scores Syrian Explanations

LD231909 Kuwait KUNA in English 1823 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Beirut, June 22 (KUNA) — Official PLO sources have reacted angrily to Syrian claims of non-interference in Fatah internal affairs.

Particularly singled out was the statement of Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to Arab League Secretary-General Chedli Klibi in which he claimed that Syrian forces had only intervened in inter-Fatah clashes in the Al-Masna border area in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' valley earlier this week "to protect 'Arafat's people." Khaddam had added that Syria would not get involved in the future, in which case the dissidents would be able to control the situation.

In a statement issued Thursday by the Palestinian news agency WAFA, an official Palestinian source ridiculed the explanation saying that the dissident forces — both those under the leadership of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and Ahmad Jibril's General Command — would not even dream of attacking loyalist Fatah forces without outside assistance. The statement accused Syria of helping the dissident groups to take over Palestinian offices and centres in Damascus, and of trying to undermine Palestinian unity.

WAFA's political editor went further and insinuated that the Abu Musa and Jibril factions were under the patronage of Syrian intelligence, and that they intended to seize power within Fatah and hand the organisation over to Syrian control. In a further reference to the Al-Masna incident, the editorial rejected the Syrian claim that Syrian forces had intervened under orders from the brigade commander without the knowledge of the leadership in Damascus. Given past evidence of Syrian-dissident liaison, it continued, this explanation would not hold.

The editorial was restrained in demanding Syrian non-intervention, challenging the Syrian Government "if it sincerely intended to confront Israel" not to undermine the united Palestinian front, and calling for the support of the Syrian people.

The official Palestinian statements coincide with an unequivocal editorial in the respected independent Jerusalem daily *Al-Fajr* which denounced Syrian and Libyan intervention in Palestinian affairs. The paper showed that the Fatah dispute, together with Israeli and other attempts at undermining Palestinian national consciousness, had not affected the solid support for the PLO shown by Palestinians living in the West Bank.

In a sampling of prominent West Bank personalities which included mayors, religious figures, editors, trade unionists, representatives of social institutions and professional associations, the paper concluded that unity behind the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people was as strong as ever in the occupied territories.

More on Fatah Reaction

JN231148 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1110 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Commenting on statements by a responsible Syrian source yesterday which denied any Syrian military support for the dissidents, a Fatah spokesman in Tripoli, northern Lebanon, said that facts speak for themselves, and that the Syrian decision — regardless of the decisionmaker — aims to exploit the presence of the Fatah forces, bases, and offices on Syrian territory and on part of the Syrian-controlled Lebanese territory to implement a plan primarily aimed at undermining the independent Palestinian decisionmaking and at containing Fatah, and through it, the Palestinian revolution, in order to use it as a bargaining card.

The Palestinian spokesman noted that the Fatah movement does notsuffer divisive currents except on Syrian territory or on Syrian-controlled territory.

In another development, the Palestinian spokesman denied that Abu 'Ammar intends to move his headquarters to Tripoli, saying that the Palestinian leader is currently in Tripoli merely to resolve the crisis, put an end to foreign interference, and confront the dangers that are perilous to the Palestinian unity.

Syrian Interference Denounced

JN232014 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1640 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] The political editor of the Palestinian News Agency says: We have always endeavored seriously and endlessly to prevent Syrian-Palestinian differences from reaching the stage of explosion and strife. However, these efforts were always misunderstood. Despite this, we continued our efforts and told the Syrian brothers more than once to let the Palestinians solve their own differences and problems, and to let them adopt the political and military decisions which they deem to be in their own best interests.

However, none of the Syrian officials whom we met paid any serious attention to our efforts. Following the outbreak of the fabricated crisis, we know exactly which Syrian officials were behind it and we know the details of the meetings which were held in Damascus, during which the final touches of this mutiny were completed. Despite that fact, we were patient and mentioned nothing about these details and irrefutable facts until the administrative offices in Damascus were occupied, followed by the occupation of Fatah camps and institutions in Syria. We asked the Syrian brothers: These offices are under your protection, so how can you allow this to happen? We received a promise from Minister Khaddam and others, but no change took place. The occupation of our offices in Syria continued and our forces in the Al-Biqa' were put under pressure.

Nothing can be achieved if we continue to remain silent now,and if the flagrant Syrian interference in our affairs through the Syrian forces in the Al-Biqa' continues. Thus, Brother Abu

'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] revealed the whole truth so that our masses would realize the facts about the plots and conspiracies aimed at dealing a blow to the Palestinian revolution and arresting its independent political decisionmaking.

We have prevented our forces until now from replying to the Syrian forces' fire, because it is the duty of our forces to stand alongside the Syrian forces against the Israeli occupation forces which are preparing for new aggression, and because we refuse to be forced into a Syrian-Palestinian conflict. The result of such a conflict in 1976 had disastrous effects on everyone.

The Palestinian revolution eagerly awaits a quick position on this serious development in Syrian-Palestinian relations. It also aspires to an Arab role to put an end to the Syrian interference in our internal affairs.

Fatah Official Threatens To Bomb Syrian Positions
NC231930 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Abu Ahmad Isma'il, the official in charge of the Fatah 17 security squad, has threatened to bombard the Syrian positions in Al-Biqa' if 'Arafat forces are subjected to any Syrian shelling. He also threatened to attack the house of Syrian commander Muhammad Ghanim.

Our correspondent in Al-Biqa' referred tonight to specific preparations which are taking place in the Kafr Zabad area near Turbul. It is feared that some developments might occur there.

Syrians Deliver Captured Fighters to Rebels
LD231506 Tunis TAP in English 1348 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Tunis, June 23 (TAP) — A column of Syrian armour headed for Anjar locality in Al-Biqa' where it circled and occupied the offices of the Fatah movement after submitting them to a torrent of shells, reported the Palestinian agency WAFA Wednesday in Tunis,quoting its press correspondent in Al-Biqa'.

The official of the Syrian military intelligence services delivered the captured Palestinian fighters to the dissident Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], who had been transported to Anjar and shown to the Fatah offices by the Syrian forces after unceasing shelling for four hours, and circling the Fatah positions in the Al Masna' and Al-Falabia areas, specified WAFA.

The agency also indicated that the Fatah loyalist fighters who were wounded were killed by Syrian forces. [as received]

Fatah Loyalists, Dissidents Reinforce Positions
NC231333 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1155 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] The tense situation is continuing in Al-Biqa'. The Abu 'Ammar group and the Fatah dissidents have continued their military reinforcements. The armed men supporting Abu Musa have retreated from the areas of Ta'lbaya, Jalala, and Ta'nayil after the Abu 'Ammar group tightened their control of these areas.

The Syrian forces continue to send reinforcements to the Abu Musa positions located from Al-Masna', 'Anjar, and At-Tuwayri up to the approach to Shtawrah, where Syrian forces are deployed around the town to prevent Abu 'Ammar's armed men from regaining their positions on the Al-Masn'a-Shtawrah Road.

Syrian soldiers were reportedly seen today near the Abu 'Ammar positions in Sa'd Nayil, Ta'nayil, Barr Ilyas, and Jdita. At the Turbul crossroad, Abu Musa gunmen manning a checkpoint fired at an ambulance carrying a dead man. Fatah armed men forced the vehicle to stop, and drove it to one of their centers. An AFP correspondent described the Syrian forces' behavior as so nervous that they killed a Syrian soldier last night.

A base belonging to Abu 'Ammar was established on the Ta'nayl Road. Within the framework of reorganizing his ranks, Abu 'Ammar issued orders appointing Abu Ahmad Isma'il as Fatah military commander in Al-Biqa'. He formerly occupied the post of chief of the 17th Fatah security squad in Jdita. Isma'il replaced Abu al-Mu'tasim [Brigadier General Ahmad 'Affanah].

The Syrian forces in Al-Biqa' have brought new forces to Al-Karak and have deployed near the Salhab [gas station].

It was noticed today that the so-called Arab Army of Lebanon carried out intensive activities in the town of Sa'd Nayil. Patrols are roving the streets on the pretext of protecting the town and preventing Palestinians from entering. The Ahmad Al-Khatib gunmen have established a base in Shtawrah near the Syrian Intelligence Center.

PLO Official Denies Command Move to Tripoli
GF231419 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1315 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Jun (WAKH) — A high-ranking Palestinian official has denied reports about the establishment of a PLO command in the Lebanese town of Tripoli, and described these reports as groundless because they were attributed to a PLO official spokesman in Nicosia who does not even exist.

In a statement carried by the Palestinian news agency (WAFA) today, the source expressed hope that news media will be more accurate in reporting Palestinian news by quoting known official spokesmen in the PLO. The Palestinian source stressed that the presence of Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, and the members of the Palestinian command in Tripoli, Lebanon, is a temporary presence necessitated by the present circumstances. He said that the PLO does not intend to transfer its offices and main agencies to the Lebanese town of Tripoli.

'Arafat Tours Positions in Al-Biqa' Valley
JN231653 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar has since this morning been inspecting the positions of the Palestinian military forces in

Al-Biqa'. During his tours, Abu 'Ammar became acquainted with the preparedness of the Palestinian revolution forces to confront any possibilities in the wake of the development of the situation due to Syrian intereference in Palestinian internal affairs, especially since this interference has come following the declared Zionist threats against the PLO.

Our correspondent in Al-Biqa' has said that tension still prevails and that the Palestinian revolution forces are at maximum readiness and discipline so as to avoid being compelled to fight against the Syrian forces as they were in 1976 when these forces entered Lebanon.

'Arafat Arrives in Damascus To Meet Leaders

LD231711 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1656 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Damascus, 23 Jun (KUNA) — PLO leader Mr Yasir 'Arafat arrived here this evening from Tripoli. Mr 'Arafat will chair a series of meetings with the Palestinian leaders during his stay in Damascus in order to discuss the latest developments in the Palestinian arena and the disagreement in the ranks of the Fatah movement.

In a statement on arrival he said that his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad will not take place at the present time.Mr 'Arafat also said that he would conduct a series of meetings with the Palestinian resistance leaders who are in Damascus and the latest [word indistinct] of Fatah movement.

Regarding the possibility of his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian officials, he said: Not now. He did not fix a time for such a meeting.

The Palestinian leader announced that he will be touring some Arab and foreign countries, but he declined to name them, saying: When I begin the tour, you will know. Palestinian sources expect that 'Arafat will begin his tour during the next 24 hours.

Chairs Palestinian Leadership Meeting

LD231932 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1851 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Damascus 23 Jun (KUNA) — Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, immediately on his arrival here this evening, presided over a meeting of the Palestinian leadership attended by Palestine National Council Chairman Mr Khalid al-Fahum, the secretaries of units of the PFLP, the Democratic Front, the Palestinian Liberation Front, and a number of members of the PLO Executive Committee. Mr 'Arafat arrived here earlier this evening from Tripoli, where he had been staying during the past 3 days.

Well-informed Palestinian sources said that during the meeting the Palestinian leadership will discuss "the most recent developments in the Palestinian and Arab arena, especially the developments in the Al-Biqa' region." So far, there is no other information available concerning what is being discussed at the meeting.

More on Damascus Activities

JN232131 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2035 GMT 23 Jun 83

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Excerpts] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat held three meetings after his arrival in Damascus today. The first meeting was with a senior Syrian official, with whom he discussed the developments in the internal conflict within Fatah and the new developments in Syrian-Palestinian relations during the last 3 days. The second meeting was with the USSR ambassador in Damascus.

The third meeting was attended by PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum; PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash; Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and some members of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee. Talks dealt with the last 2 days' developments, and the dangers they pose to Palestinian national action, Syrian-Palestinian relations, and Palestinian independent national decisionmaking.

A Palestinian spokesman close to 'Arafat told our radio that the Palestinian leadership is trying hard to tackle Palestinian-Syrian relations in a calm way, based on fraternal democratic dialogue despite the presence of serious obstacles caused by the grave military developments in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' against Palestinian steadfastness in the confrontation arena, as he said.

The spokesman added that the Palestinian revolution hopes that all Palestinians and Arabs realize that what is actually taking place now has gone beyond all the slogans which the secessionist faction — the opposition group in the Fatah movement — submitted, particularly after the Fatah Revolutionary Council has answered all the submitted political, military, and organizational questions without receiving a positive response from the other side. The spokesman stressed that Yasir 'Arafat's stand has now begun to polarize all the Palestinian forces on the general level, particularly those forces which recently tried to mediate between the two sides but were faced by the other side's constant rejection.

Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has been in Al-Biqa' since yesterday, according to the latest information. He held several military meetings there during which he reviewed with the military commanders in detail what happened in Majdal 'Anjar and Al-Masna'. He also personally supervised the collection of facts and information about the sides which took part in the attack against Fatah's positions.

Late Report: Syria Asks 'Arafat To Leave Country

JN241210 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1206 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] The Syrian authorities today asked Yasir 'Arafat to leave Syrian territory immediately and banned him from returning to Syria. The Syrian authorities also banned 'Arafat's military

deputy Khalil al-Wazir (alias Abu Jihad) — who is now in Al-Biqa' — from entering the Syrian territory.

10 Killed in Ambush of Palestinian Convoy

JN241020 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] The Palestinian news agency, WAFA, has reported that only a few hours after Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat returned to Damascus, a Palestinian convoy was ambushed on the Damascus-Homs road, resulting in 10 Palestinian fighters being either killed or wounded.

The official in charge of the Palestinian convoy — who did not identify the attackers — said that the attack could not have taken place without the knowledge and instigation of the Syrian police. Nobody can deny what has taken place on Syrian territory, because the incident occured on an international road used by Syria to transport its imports and exports.

Exchanges Messages With Andropov

JN231912 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] It has been learned from a responsible Palestinian source close to Yasir 'Arafat in Damascus that the PLO chairman, who returned to Damascus this afternoon, has received an important message from USSR leader Yuriy Andropov dealing with the Middle East situation and the latest developments in Al-Biqa'. The USSR ambassador in the Syrian capital conveyed the message to 'Arafat immediately after the latter's arrival at his Damascus office. 'Arafat asked the USSR ambassador to convey a reply to Andropov.

Asked after the meeting if Moscow is mediating in the situation,'Arafat said: Yes. He added that he will meet with the Palestinian leaders in Damascus today.

Appeal for Husayn Support

JN240832 Amman Sawt Ash-Sha'b in Arabic 24 Jun 83 pp 1, 13

[Text] Amman — WAFA — The Palestinian news agency, WAFA, yesterday released the text of the message that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat sent to His Majesty King Husayn on 22 June 1983. The text of the message reads as follows:

His Majesty King Husayn: Good greetings. This morning the Syrians sent tanks and some of their troops to support the Ahmad Jibril group and other dissidents, and to attack our positions on the Al-Biqa' plain and arrest some of our officers and cadres. This serious step by the Syrian brothers, with whom we share the same trench against the common Zionist enemy, has followed a previous step 2 days ago when Libyan tanks, which are positioned in Al-Biqa', participated in the attack on our positions. The failure of the Libyans to record any progress has prompted the Syrian forces to do the job with full strength. We consider this an escalation, and a grave juncture in the situation.

Your Majesty: We issued rigorous instructions against attacking the Syrian forces which surrounded all our positions in Al-Biqa' and Ba'labakk. These forces are currently supporting the Ahmad Jibril group and the dissidents. I appeal to you, Your Majesty, at these critical moments, to side with the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people and help us confront this serious crisis with the Syrian brothers. I am fully confident and hopeful that you will side with our revolution and people at these crucial moments. It is a revolution until victory.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee Chairman

PFLP, DFLP Factions Hold Emergency Meeting

JN231245 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Excerpt] The PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] held an emergency meeting in Damascus today to discuss the recent grave developments, Fatah infighting, and the deteriorating relations with Syria.

Statement Issued on Discord

JN232147 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Jun

[Text] The PFLP and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have affirmed their absolute rejection of the internal fighting and their complete support for the unity of the revolution and the PLO.

This came in a statement issued today following an emergency joint meeting of the leadership of the DFLP and the PFLP to discuss the serious developments which took place in the Fatah movement in the past few days. During this meeting, a discussion was held on the urgent tasks of the DFLP and the PFLP, the Palestinian and Arab nationalist forces, and the broad masses to put an end to this deterioration, whose consequences could have negative effects on the entire situation in the region, and on the confrontation of the Zionist-imperialist aggression, particularly following the recent capitulatory agreement imposed on Lebanon.

The DFLP and the PFLP called for avoiding the use of arms, adhering to the democratic dialogue, preserving the unity of Fatah and the PLO, and reinforcing internal democracy and collective leadership. The DFLP and PFLP reaffirmed that these principles are alone capable of settling the internal dispute and protecting the Palestinian revolution from the threats of dismemberment which could result in the worst consequences, and provide the enemies of the Palestinian people with the golden opportunity to implement the plans which they failed to achieve through the war in Lebanon or the plans that followed it.

The DFLP and PFLP warned against the Palestinian internal strife because it is, under these dangerous circumstances, the best

service possible to the Zionist-U.S. agreement which was imposed on Lebanon and to Reagan's liquidatory plan. They also called for an immediate halt to all individual statements which are made in the name of the revolution without any consultation by sources from outside the legitimate Palestinian institutions.

The DFLP and PFLP concluded their statement by saying: We call on all Palestinian forces inside and outside the homeland and all parties to endeavor to safeguard the unity of the Palestinian revolution and the PLO in order to overcome the present crisis.

PFLF Urges Israeli 'Strikes'

LD231905 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Damascus 23 Jun (KUNA) — The PFLP today called on the Lebanese Government to release Palestinian detainees, to guarantee their living and work rights, and to stop the campaigns of detention and expulsion which it practices against Palestinian citizens in Lebanon.

The Front, which is headed by Dr George Habash, stressed at the end of the meetings of the Fifth session of its Central Committee that the defeat of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement lies in escalating the armed struggle and directing [word indistinct] military strikes against the Israeli enemy.

At the meeting during the last 2 days, the front reviewed the military position and situation of the Front and the Palestinian revolution and discussed means and methods of escalating the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy inside and outside the homeland according to the correct military line. The Front will adopt several important resolutions in this regard.

PLO Faction Urges 'Democratic Dialogue' in Fatah

JN231934 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] has affirmed that the successful method to settle disputes within Fatah is to resort to democratic dialogue and to reject the use of arms to settle differences in the Palestinian arena.

Khalid 'Abd al-Majid, member of the PLO Central Council and of the Political Bureau of the PPSF, said that, from the start, the front backed the demands made by those who protested against the political and organizational decisions adopted by the Fatah Central Committee, which serve a secessionst course instead of unity in the Palestinian position. In a statement distributed in Damascus today by the PPSF's central information department, 'Abd al-Majid said that resorting to the use of arms and attacking the September Martyrs Battalion — which had announced that it had joined Colonel Abu Musa — contributed to the deepening of the crisis and indicated the dangerous course adopted by some people.

He said: Though our comrades showed self-restraint and refused to resort to the methods adopted by the rightwing factions, the campaigns of mobilization, of instigation, and of exaggeration of the crisis continued. An attempt was made to export this crisis through statements made in the name of the PLO accusing Palestinian and Arab sides of military intervention in the Fatah crisis.

He said the PPSF affirms that the statements and messages in this regard do not express our views. He affirmed the importance of reinforcing struggle relations with Syria, which firmly stands against the U.S.-Zionist onslaught. He also affirmed the importance of reinforcing Palestinian-Lebanese nationalist-Syrian relations to bolster the struggle in order to foil the Zionist-U.S. agreement imposed on Lebanon.

Arab League's Klibi Urges Palestinian Unity

LD231511 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1355 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Tunis, 23 Jun (SPA) — In a call addressed today to the units of the Palestinian revolution, the Arab League secretary general, Chedli Klibi, urged the immediate reuniting of ranks among them through the democratic means dictated by the nature of the challenges surrounding the Palestinian issue and the dangers of the Zionist plans being faced by the Palestinian leadership.

Klibi said that democratic discussion and dialogue between units of the Palestinian revolution within the legitimate institutes of the PLO should not have developed into violent confrontations which pain all Arabs and friends of the Palestinian people who support their struggle for freedom and dignity. The Arab League secretary general stressed that the Arab nation expects responsible behavior from the Palestinian revolution — this involves adherence to the commitments of the Palestinian issue — and expects the PLO to remain the framework for the Palestinian people's national unity, the shining symbol of its entity, and the leadership of its struggle.

The Arab League secretary general warned the units of the Palestinian revolution against falling into the trap of differences and being torn because that will lead to fragmentation and the enemy (?confronting each Arab country on its own). He said that the Arab nation fully understands the tragedy suffered by the Palestinian people and the obstacles faced by them, and it understands the difficult options faced by the Palestinian leadership which is facing, with all its national and humanitarian senses, the dangers of Zionist plans aimed against the Palestinian national existence and Arab destiny as a whole. He emphasized the need for cohesion within Palestinian ranks, which havebecome a historic reality through the brilliant effort of the Palestinian struggle, so as to retain the ability to continue the struggle.

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives Yasir 'Arafat's Message

GF231908 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1840 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Manama, 23 Jun (WAKH) — Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah has received a written message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

In was reported that the message deals with the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and the current situations prevailing in Al-Biqa'.

SAUDI ARABIA

Foreign Minister Leaves For Jordan With Message

LD231604 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1540 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Jidda, 23 Jun (SPA) — Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left for Amman today with a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to King Husayn of Jordan connected with the current Arab situation.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

LD231758 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1643 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Excerpts] At-Ta'if, 23 Jun (SPA) — Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah arrived in At-Ta'if this evening for a visit to the Kingdom. He told SPA on arrival that he is bringing a letter to His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from his brother the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, in connection with the outcome of his visit to Damascus yesterday and his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, in addition to Palestinian-Syrian relations.

Received by King Fahd

LD231952 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1845 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] At-Ta'if, 23 Jun (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received this evening at the Royal Palace in At-Ta'if Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, who handed his majesty the king a handwritten message from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait.

Concludes Visit

LD232331 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2050 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] At-Ta'if, 23 Jun (SPA) — Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah left At-Ta'if this evening after a short visit to the Kingdom during which he handed His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz a handwritten message from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, the amir of Kuwait.

He was seen off on his departure by his excellency the minister of state and member of the Cabinet Dr Muhammad al-Iulham and the Kuwaiti ambassador to the Kingdom.

AL-JAZIARAH Regrets Growing Fatah Rift

GF231130 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Jun 83

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper *Al-Jazirah* wrote about the intra-Fatah dissension. It said:

"It is regretful and sad that the rift inside Fatah, the leader of the political and military Palestinian revolutionary struggle, has worsened to the point of fighting. The weapons used yesterday and the day beforewere supposed to be directed toward the positions and hiding places of the Israeli enemy. The Palestinian fighters in Al-Biqa' valley have forgotten several facts regarding their presence there and their cause which has established their presence in one trench in Al-Biqa' and shaped their fate."

The newspaper continued: "Ordinary Arabs who have worried since the beginning of that schism still do not know the real reasons and motives for it. But ordinary Arabs know one fact: The armed fighting that took place between the Fatah dissidents and proponents has put the entire geographically-scattered Palestinian revolution in an unprecedented dilemma. God alone knows what the state of Fatah will be after the fighting that took place 2 days ago because this means that the only common language of understanding left between the dissidents and non-dissidents is the language of bullets. May God help Fatah and protect it from its unknown fate."

Newspapers on PLO Rift, EEC Sanctions

LD231412 Riyadh SPA in English 1200 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Riyadh, June 23, SPA — Saudi newspapers today highlighted the Kingdom's role in unifying Arab ranks and commented on the situation in the Palestinian arena.

Al-Bilad, published in Jidda, said the Kingdom's keenness to preserve supreme interests of the Arab nation is being enhanced by the Saudi leader's determination to counter foreign threats seeking to undermine the nation's accomplishments. The paper stressed the importance of HM King Fahd's continuous efforts to achieve Arab solidarity and shoot down Arab differences. It said the Saudi monarch had repeatedly declared the Kingdom's frank and open policy which seeks to unite the Arab people.

The paper praised HM the king's efforts to stop Arab bleeding in some parts of the Arab world and welcomed his recent appeal to the Palestinians to unite and forget about their peripheral differences.

Meanwhile *Al-Jazirah*, published here, described what was takingplace in the Palestinian arena during past few days as "tough experience and sorrowful" because this rift among the Fatah members was not justified and came suddenly. The paper

praised the Fatah leadership for the Palestinian armed struggle and democratic ways Fatah leaders had adopted among themselves.

Another paper *Al-Yawm*, published in Ad-Dammam, wondered why this clash among the group members occurred and why it continued,although the parties concerned were quite aware of threats awaiting them ahead.

The paper called on the Fatah members to practise self-restraint and sit on a negotiation table to clear the misunderstanding which had led to this regrettable situation.

The Jidda-based *'Ukaz* said the armed confrontation among Fatah members was only in the benefit of the Zionist enemy which was striving to "liquidate the Palestinian resistance and cause." The paper wondered why dissidents among Fatah group were escalating their military operations at a time when loyal Palestinian leaders had been making utmost efforts to "iron out differences and clear Arab atmosphere." It called on Fatah dissidents to be aware of dangers threatening the whole Palestinian existence and warned against the widening rift which the paper said had its negative impacts on the Arab affairs in general and the Palestinians in particular. "The reconciliation among various Palestinian factions is necessary at this time to promote the Palestinian cause and recover Palestinian inalienable rights," the paper added.

Ar-Riyad, published here, harshly criticised the European stand on the Middle East issue which had been [word indistinct] in the European countries inclination to host the international conference on Palestine. The paper recalled the European states attitude during the past weeks in placing obstacles on the road to convene the international conference on Palestine in one of the European capitals although they were assured that this conference would not condemn or impose sanctions on Israel but was just an international gathering for exchange of views.

The paper said the European states were rarely imposing sanctions on Israel, and in case of opting for such measures they would take the first opportunity to cancel them. The paper regretted the European stand and called on the Arab states to "react to thisstand in a way that can preserve the Arab dignity and rights."

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Meets With Officials

GF230900 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 Jun 83

[Excerpt] Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah, arrived in at-Ta'if tonight on a visit to the Kingdom. He was received by Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ahmad Zaki Yamani, and a number of officials of the petroleum and mineral resources ministry.

Bahraini Industry Minister Arrives For Talks

LD221450 Riyadh SPA in English 1223 GMT 22 Jun 83

[Text] At Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, June 22, SPA — Bahraini Industry Minister Yusuf ash-Shirawi arrived here today from Manama for talks with Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani, as part of tour which will also take him to Kuwait. He was greeted at the airport by Yamani and a number of high-ranking officials.

Before leaving the Bahraini capital, Ash-Shirawi said he would hold talks with Yamani and Kuwait Oil Minister 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah on the current oil situation and joint petroleum projects by the three countries. Ash-Shirawi said he would also convey a message from Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman al-Khalifa to Saudi Second Deputy Premier and Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, dealing with aviation between the two countries.

The Bahraini minister added that he would confer with Saudi Industry Minister Dr Ghazi al-Qusaybi on joint projects and industrial cooperation between the two countries, including the causeway project.

Minister Returns From 'Private' Beirut Visit

LD232351 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2205 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Jidda, 23 Jun (SPA) — His Excellency Minister of Information Ali ash-Sha'ir returned to Jidda tonight from Beirut after a private visit there to bid farewell to the Lebanese officials on the conclusion of his mission as an ambassador of the Kingdom to Lebanon.

Commentary on Planned Israeli Nuclear Station

LD232344 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Talk by Husayn al-'Askari]

[Text] My honorable listeners, peace be upon you together with the benediction of God. The Israeli enemy intends to build a nuclear station near the town of Nablus in the occupied West Bank. When Zionism planned the occupation of Palestine and attained what it wanted with the help of the superpowers in the international community, its main objective was not to exploit the Arab land but to Judaize the occupied land.

In such a situation it is natural and necessary also that the Zionist entity should seek to empty the land of its owners in order to get rid of the Arab human factor while keeping part of the population which would serve a settlement or economic design without constituting any imbalance to the Israeli population. Therefore the land has been and will continue to be the axis of the conflict between the Arabs and Zionism. While the historic Arab right is based on the strong foundation of a continuous presence and life on this land, the Israelis are trying to link their quite recent presence on the Palestinian Arab land with what they claim to be historic facts which they must uphold by the force of arms not in order to protect and entrench their presence on the land of Palestine but to gnaw at the Arab land piece by piece [as heard]

Hence there are the sufferings of the Palestinian people and the problems emanating from the fierce Zionist onslaught against all the Arab region. Problems become even more complicated with

the escalation of the campaign of land confiscation and deprivation in order to turn the Arab citizens into residents, not citizens owning the land with the natural right to stay on it.

In this context the construction of an Israeli nuclear station near Nablus confers a new and grave dimension to the process of confiscation of Arab land. In the city of Jerusalem in particular and the West Bank in general, 80 percent has been confiscated.

This dimension takes the form of turning the region into a military zone whose sanctity will be boundless and which will involve major Palestinian cities which will be emptied of their inhabitants under the pretext of providing protection for the nuclear station. But the new Israeli game is a political game linked basically to the process of emptying Palestine of its original inhabitants in order to seize the land and Judaize it.

Commentary on EEC Lifting Aid Embargo to Israel

LD231436 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Analysis by Ali Abdallah al-Mani']

[Text] When the Zionist enemy forces stormed the Lebanese territories last June, the EEC countries decided to impose sanctions by withholding a portion of their financial aid to the Israel entity, which constituted $40 million, as an expression of the Market countries denunciation and condemnation of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. The European countries stipulated as a condition for lifting this embargo the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from Lebanon. However, after a whole year has passed since the presence of the conquering Zionist forces in Lebanon, the leaders of those countries have decided in their conference held recently in Stuttgart, West Germany to retract their previous decision and lift the embargo on the $40 million, and offer it to the Zionist entity.

If the leaders of the EEC countries decided to put an embargo on the aforementioned sum on the basis of their conviction of and commitment to the principle they announced at the time — namely the prohibition of the use of force to occupy the territories of others — the reasons which compelled them to take their previous decision are still valid. The Israeli occupation forces are still wandering freely in Lebanon. They are spreading destruction and terror in its towns and villages under the pretext of looking for the Lebanese national resistence men who have (?disturbed the presence) of the Zionist conquerers and, through their recent operations, showed them that the price of occupying the territories of others was high, and that the conquering forces would not be saved from paying that price without being in a continuous state of alertness and readiness.

It would have been more worthy for the EEC countries leaders to offer such financial aid to UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East] to enable it continue its humanitarian mission of looking after the Palestinian refugees' affairs who have become the victims of the Zionist aggression, especially since the majority of those refugees are widows and children who have lost their families during the unjust Zionist storming of Lebanese territories. It is impossible to interpret the Market countries leaders' decision to lift the embargo on that portion of their countries' financial aid to the Israeli enemy at the time when its conquering forces are still occupying large parts of Lebanese territories except as being the result of Zionist blackmail and ignoring the criminal acts perpetrated by the conquering forces against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

Observers believe that the EEC countries leaders' decision to lift the embargo on sending the $40 million to the Israeli entity, which has not withdrawn its forces from Lebanon, has cast [word indistinct] dark clouds on the [word indistinct] of these countries stances vis-a-vis the just Arab issues, foremost among them the Palestinian issue, and on their leaders repeated statements that their countries would take a neutral stance vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In any case, it would be impossible to understand the offer of $40 million from the EEC countries to the Israeli enemy or any financial and moral aid offered to this racist expansionist entity by any party except in light of it being the result of non-appreciation practices of the enemy's forces against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, and as an encouragement for these forces to stay in Lebanon longer.

PDRY

Talks Held With Lebanese Communist Officials

GF231837 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Brother Abu Bakr 'Abd ar-Razzaq Badib, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, has reiterated the YSP support for the national struggle of the Lebanese people and for its national and progressive powers. He expressed profound appreciation for the military operations of the Lebanese national resistance front against the Zionist occupation forces. He called for efforts to amass all the Lebanese resistance powers in order to foil the suspicious Lebanese-Israeli agreement.

This was reported dueing his meeting today with the delegation of the Lebanese Organization of Communist Action, which is led by Brother Fawwaz at-Tarabulsi, member of the Political Bureau of the organization, who is currently visiting our country. During the meeting they discussed the developments in the Arab region, particularly the developments in the struggle of the Lebanese people to preserve the unity of Lebanon, its Arabism and its democratic development. They also discussed the aggressive threats of the Zionist enemy — which is backed by U.S. imperialism — against Syria. They stressed the need to reinforce the struggle alliance among Syria, the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese national powers. They stressed the need to confront the various conspiratory attempts which are designed to harm this alliance and to prevent it from reaching the limit of tackling the fateful issues which the peoples of our Arab nation are experiencing.

YAR

President Salih Receives 'Arafat's Message

GF232008 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received a written message from Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, on bilateral relations, the latest developments in the Palestinian arena, and the necessity to safeguard the integrity of the Palestinian struggle against the Zionist enemy under the leadership of the PLO.

Al-Biqa' Incidents Followed With Concern

NC231428 Cairo MENA in English 1402 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Cairo, June 23 (MENA) — A Cabinet authoritative source announced that Egypt follows with great interest and concern the latest incidents that have taken place in the Al-Biqa' valley and to which the Palestinian resistance is exposed.

The source said that the Arab Republic of Egypt urges all the Arab parties to exert efforts for the sake of preserving the unity of the Palestinian command. It also affirms that the Arab drive should confirm the achievement of security, unity, and independence of the Palestinian national movement, as an attempt to disintegrate the organisation's unity is a blow directed to the Palestinian people and his just cause and capacity to unify efforts for the sake of attaining his right to self-determination.

The source said the Arab leaders are requested to take a serious action during this crucial stage of Arab national history to embody an Arab stance aiming at a prompt and decisive reconciliation in the Al-Biqa' to help the emergence of the Palestinian resistance as one coherant unit operating for achieving comprehensive, just and permanent peace in the area.

Cabinet Statement on PLO

NC232214 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA) — The Foreign Ministry experts in Palestinian affairs tonight, confe red for the second time, with the PLO representatives in Cairo to discuss the tense situation among the PLO parties.

The meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Ambassador Fu'ad Yusuf, the foreign minister's adviser for Palestinian affairs. It was attended on the Palestinian side by PLO members Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani, Muhammad Sabih, Nabil Sha'ath and Muhammad Ghazi.

During the meeting, the Egyptian side was informed about the developments on the Al-Biqa' plain. Views were exchanged about the conflict within Fatah.

The Arab Republic of Egypt is following the situation on the highest levels. A tripartite meeting was held last night among Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi Ad-Din, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and War Production field Marshal 'Abd al-Hamid Abu Ghazalah, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali. The meeting continued until early this morning.

The latest developments and the serious situation in the PLO's ranks were reviewed at the meeting. The Cabinet issued an official statement following this meeting.

Diplomatic circles note that the statement reflects Egypt's interest in the unity of the Palestinian movement and the PLO, and its independence and that of the Palestinian decision. It also reflects Egypt's view on the importance of confronting any attempts at dissension in the PLO's ranks and the importance of maintaining its legitimate leadership.

The statement further reflects Egypt's view that it is important at this stage, during which we demand the Palestinian people and the PLO to express the Palestinian decision in a way which will help the establishment of the right to self-determination and the setting up of their independent state on their land, that the Palestinian leadership should be in a strong position to adopt the required decision which would realize the aims of the Palestinian people.

The statement further reflects Egypt's interest that there should be one united Palestinian rank during this important stage in the history of the Palestinian question and that such incidents will only lead to the breaking up of the Arab and Palestinian stance.

Egypt believes that Arab cooperation and action is necessary to quickly do something which will help the Palestinian resistance to emerge from the tragedy it is facing and safeguard the Palestinian leadership and the United Palestinian action.

Mubarak Congratulates Andropov on Election

NC232054 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2038 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 June (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak sent the following cable of congratulations to CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Andropov on the occasion of his election as the chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet:

On the occasion of your election as the chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, I am pleased to convey to Your Excellency sincerest heartfelt congratulations on this precious trust which the friendly Soviet people have bestowed upon you. I wish you continuous success in your noble duties. With my deepest esteem and regards.

'Ali Comments on European Role in Middle East

NC231800 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Bonn, 23 Jun (MENA) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Miniser Kamal Hasan 'Ali has affirmed the stability of the political and economic conditions in Egypt and said that the Egyptian economy is in good shape, but it requires greater production, seriousness [jaddiyah] and perseverance.

In an interview he granted to the Egyptian radio correspondent in Bonn today, 'Ali pointed out that President Husni Mubarak's meeting with the German businessmen during his visit to Germany last December had an extremely good effect. He said: We can see the effects of this meeting in the volume of investments and the rush of German investors and companies to establish more joint factories and companies in Egypt since then.

'Ali described the Egyptian-German relations as good. He said that contacts have been continuing between the two countries for a long time.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister pointed out that his current visit to the FRG aims at deepening common understanding between the two countries on international problems,

particularly the Middle East issue, and he noted Germany is a member of the European Community. He said the European Community as a whole is seriously affected by peace in the Middle East, and stability is considered important for its vital interests in the area.

He added that European security also directly affects the Middle East region, hence the importance of such meetings and visits between the two countries.

He indicated that it is impossible to isolate what happens in the Middle East area from what is taking place between the East and West in many areas of the world. He emphasized in this regard the importance of the role of the Nonaligned Movement, particularly with regard to easing international tension.

'Ali also referred in his interview to the role of the European Community in supporting and developing the Third World states, particularly in easing the burden of foreign debts, and in all the spheres of development, training, and the transfer of technology.

AL-AKHBAR on Alleged Libyan Attack Against Chad

NC230639 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2236 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA) — *Al-Akhbar* describes as aggressive chaos the attack that Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and his forces intend to launch against Chad for closing the Chadian-Sudanese border.

In its editorial tomorrow, the paper says: If Al-Qadhdhafi risks this aggressive chaos, he will meet stiff resistance from all the states surrounding him, which decried his stand at the African summit conference, and which compelled him to withdraw from the conference and to leave Addis Ababa for Libya.

Al-Akhbar expresses its belief that the Libyan aggresion might not take place within 24 hours, as has been predicted. It says such matters require deep contemplation, and what is being said are perhaps mere reports about movements that Al-Qadhdhafi is disseminating to keep minds busy, and to intimidate and warn the states in the region that turned against him and did not permit him to chair the African summit session, although it was his turn to be the chairman, and he had spent a long time and much money to become chairman of the session, to no avail.

In conclusion, *Al-Akhbar* says: He has never foresaken his chaotic nature. He must always be planning something to satisfy this nature. He does not need to exert much effort, but it always fails. He spends much money, but it is always lost. Thus, the Libyan people's life suffers from this loss.

Economic Committee Approves Loan Agreements

NC231500 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] During its meeting today under Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, the Higher Committee for Policies and Economic Affairs approved a number of agreements concluded between Egypt and some friendly countries and international organizations. Cabinet Affairs Minister 'Adil 'Abd al-Baqi has stated that these include the agreement on the loan provided by the FRG, which amounts to DM250 million, to finance a number of investment projects, including the renewal of the railway lines between Cairo and Alexandria and between Cairo and Aswan.

The committee approved the loan provided by the GDR electrification project. The committee also approved the agreement between the Electricity Ministry and the FRG Ministry of Technology to strengthen cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for power generation.

The Higher Committee also approved the loan provided by the World Bank for reconstruction and development to the tune of $24 million to finance the road construction and maintenance projects.

Minister 'Adil 'Abd al-Baqi added that the Higher Committee approved a proposal by the Agriculture Ministry for a study on the cotton crop and increasing cotton production, and developing the cotton research laboratories at a cost of 3 million pounds.

Communique: 'Naval Target' Destroyed 23 June
JN231716 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Communique No 1,131 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 23 June 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The brave Iraqi soldiers continued their successful activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the clique of injustice and aggression ruling in Iran. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. A formation of our capable Air Force aircraft attacked an important naval enemy target in the northern part of the Arab Gulf at 1025 today [0625 GMT], scoring a direct, effective hit. Our valiant pilots saw tongues of flame and columns of smoke rising from the attacked enemy target. All our aircraft returned safely to base, thanks be to God.

2. Our forward units opened fire on an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the Maysan sector, killing 14, wounding others, and destroying 2 infantry positions and 1 hardware stockpile.

3. Yesterday an Iranian soldier, with his weapon, sought refuge with one of our forward units in the northern sector of the battlefield. He ran away from the hell of the sanguinary Khomeyniite regime and was safely evacuated to the rear.

4. Two were killed and one vehicle and one infantry position destroyed east of Basra.

5. One infantry position and one hardware stockpile were destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

6. Today the vile Khomeyniite clique shelled Zurbatiyah and its suburbs, damaging some civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 June 1983

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives; Makes Statement

JN240636 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn last night received a message from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. The message, forwarded by Saudi Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, deals with the developments in the situation on the Palestinian arena. In particular, it discusses pressure put on the PLO to undermine free and independent Palestinian decisionmaking. The message also deals with the means that are adequate to preserve the unity of Palestinian action and support for the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

In a statement to PETRA on his arrival in Amman last night, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that the visit falls within the context of the ceaseless consultations and coordination between the two fraternal countries, particularly in light of the two monarchs' contacts with a number of Arab leaders to assess the current situation and build a unified Arab stand in the service of the common interest of the entire Arab nation.

Regarding the current events in the Palestinian arena, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal affirmed that the differences harm the Palestinian cause, adding that the Arab countries should contribute positively to mending the rift within the PLO ranks.

He was received at Amman airport by the foreign minister and several Saudi Embassy personnel in Amman.

Leaves Amman

JN241304 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Amman — Saudi Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left at noon today after a 2-day visit during which he delivered a message to His Majesty King Husayn from Saudi monarch His Majesty King Fahd.

He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and the Saudi charge d'affairs in Amman. His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to Syria to deliver a message from the Saudi monarch His Majesty King Fahd to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

King Husayn Talks With Qatari Amir 23 June

JN232137 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al-Thani, tonight telephoned His Majesty King Husayn. His highness and King Husayn exchanged viewpoints on the pressures to which the PLO is currently exposed in an attempt to weaken its stand and to affect the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking.

They also agreed to continue coordination and to exert all possible efforts to contain the crisis and to help the PLO confront these pressures out of concern about the Palestinian people's interests.

Reports on UNIFIL Mandate Renewal Request

Salim, Soviet Envoy Meet

NC230932 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] The renewal of UNIFIL's mandate on 19 July was the subject of diplomatic activity today at the Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Ministry. Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim met at 0930 today with Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Aleksandr Soldatov in the presence of the embassy's first counselor, (Yuriy Sovlikov). The meeting lasted 45 minutes, after which Ambassador Soldatov said: We discussed the question of renewing UNIFIL's mandate. Answering a question on whether the discussion dealt with the Syrian stand on the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, the Soviet ambassador said that the discussion with the foreign minister was limited to the question of renewing UNIFIL's mandate. The minister presented Lebanon's stand regarding the renewal in light of the current situation. The foreign minister later met with French Ambassador Paul Marc Henry for the same purpose.

France Supports Request

NC231045 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] After his 30-minute meeting with Foreign Minister Salim today, French Ambassador to Lebanon Paul Marc Henry said: Minister Salim briefed me on the Lebanese stand regarding the request for renewing UNIFIL's mandate for another 3 month period. Salim asked me about France's stand on this subject. I told him that France agrees to the Lebanese request and that I hope that the UN Security Council member states will respond to Lebanon's request.

Salim, Foreign Envoys Meet

NC232030 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil this evening met with Minister of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Dr Elie Salim. The discussion dealt with all the developments and the contacts underway to ensure the withdrawals from Lebanon, particularly with regard to the diplomatic contacts in this respect.

Minister Salim briefed the president of the republic on the meetings held this morning with the foreign ambassadors, and on his meeting with Mr Christopher Ross, assistant to the head of the U.S. negotiating delegation. Mr Ross informed Minister Salim that Ambassadors Philip Habib and Morris Draper will return to the area tomorrow, Friday.

The foreign and expatriates affairs minister has conveyed to the ambassadors of France, the Soviet Union, and Italy to Lebanon the Lebanese Government's desire to apply for the renewal of the mandate of the UNIFIL in the south for another 3-month period. The minister asked the ambassadors to request their governments to support the deployment of these forces over larger areas and to change their terms of reference. [Wata'dili Muhimmatiha].

Al-Wazzan Views Agreement With Israel

PM231213 London Ash-Sharq al-Awsat in Arabic 22 Jun 83 p 3

[Report on interview with Lebanese Prime minister Shafiq al-Wazzan by *Ash-Sharq al-Awsat* correspondent in Beirut — date not given]

[Excerpts] Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has given a comprehensive interview to *Ash-Sharq al-Awsat* in which he discussed the future steps to be taken prior the implementation of the agreement with Israel and talked about the Lebanese, Syrian, U.S., and Israeli attitudes.

Prime Minister Al-Wazzan said: The agreement which the Chamber of Deputies endorsed is, for many reasons, justifiable — more so for the Lebanese people than their leaders. The people, who have been through 8 years of sufferings and tragedies, have reached the limit of their patience, particularly since the Israeli occupation and the destruction, ruination, killing, and repression that accompanied it, all of which reached its climax with the siege of Beirut a year ago when water, electricity, food, and medical supplies to the city were cut off.

Al-Wazzan continued: It was necessary, in the absence of international deterrence to aggression and of the means to lift the siege from Beirut, for Lebanon to resort to negotiations which first dealt with lifting the seize and evacuating forces from Beirut and which were to culminate in an agreement for the departure of all the non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon.

Ash-Sharq al-Awsat asked Prime Minister al-Wazzan about the next step to be taken after the agreement has been approved by the Cabinet and the Chamber of Deputies, that is, by the executive and the legislative, particularly if the Syrian stand of rejecting the agreement and refusing to withdraw remains unchanged. He said: "The agreement, as we said and continue to say, is not an end in itself but a means to achieve Israeli withdrawal and, subsequently, ensure the withdrawal of all the non-Lebanese military forces and the restoration of our national sovereignty in full. On this basis what matters to us is to implement the withdrawals. Therefore we have said that, if the Israeli withdrawal is not carried out, then we will have the right to consider the agreement null and void or suspended, while preserving our natural right to pursue the question of withdrawal by various means that we deem suitable.

Al-Wazzan continued: Now we have defined the states, both Arab and friendly, that stand with us and have laid down the framework for securing Israeli withdrawal, which, as stated in the agreement, is not conditional on any other withdrawal. We did not accept conditions particularly because, throughout the negotiations and up to this moment, we differentiate between the Israeli occupation and the Syrian and Palestinian presence. Rather it is the Israeli stand — that is the stand stated in writing and sent to the U.S. side, making Syrian withdrawal a condition — that is the obstacle at present. Likewise the Syrian stand, with all it involves, is contributing to keeping us in the present impasse.

We are trying to solve these matters through continuous contacts and sincere efforts, so that everybody will understand that the

Lebanese people are no longer able to tolerate occupation, violence, and bloodshed.

Question: What about implementation and ratification?

Answer: Up to this moment we see no justification for speeding up the exchange of the ratification instruments so that the agreement will be implemented, as long as Israel is making its withdrawal conditional on Syrian withdrawal. Why speed up things, as long as this is the Israeli stance, particularly since Lebanon could suspend or abrogate the agreement if the Israeli withdrawal does not take place? Therefore, Lebanon preserves the right to take action and, at the appropriate time, adopt all the necessary measures to ensure withdrawals from its territory in accordance with its higher interests, while not overlooking any other higher Arab interest to which it considers itself committed.

Foreign Minister on Syria, USSR Stance on Accord
GF231547 Kuwait As-Siyasah in Arabic 22 Jun 83 p 14

[Interview with Lebanese Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Minister Dr Elie Salim by *As-Siyasah* correspondent in Beirut Fathi Sharif — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Your Excellency, if Syria insists on adhering to its stand which rejects [the Lebanese-Israeli agreement], what will be the alternative step you have in mind?

[Answer] We are not waiting for fraternal Syria's acceptance of the U.S.-sponsored Lebanese-Israeli agreement. Syria did not expect Lebanon would sign the truce agreement with Israel in 1949, nor did Syria expect that it would sign an agreement for the disengagement of forces with Israel after the 1973 war through the U.S. sponsorship. Moreover, Lebanon will not request any Arab country's approval of the agreement. The agreement is a Lebanese responsibility and it is fully a Lebanese decision. We expect Syria and all the other Arab countries to respect the Lebanese decision as Lebanon respects the decisions made by the Arab countries in matters that concern them. We expect them to comprehend the Lebanese decision and to help in its implementation, particularly in dealing with the evacuation of the Israeli Army from an Arab country. That is why Lebanon does not consider the Syrian position, with regard to withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon, as being final. Therefore, Lebanon looks forward to the withdrawal of the fraternal Syrian forces from Lebanon and also looks forward to the withdrawal of the [Palestinian] combatants by the Palestinian resistance in order that Lebanon be in a position to ensure the evacuation of the Israeli Army and to restore its sovereignty on all its territories.

[Question] Your Excellency, what is the implication of your reference to the posibility of dissociating Syria's approval from the issue of differences on the withdrawal from Lebanon? What did you mean in your latest statements in which you indicated that Syria will shortly begin withdrawing its troops despite its repeated rejection?

[Answer] Our stance can be summarized in the fact that the agreement is a Lebanese matter. We are not waiting for His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to accept it. But we believe that the withdrawal of the Syrian Army from Lebanon is a Lebanese-Syrian matter which has to be dealt with separately, apart from the agreement. If Syria believes that there is something in the agreement which affects Lebanese-Syrian relations or consequently affects the withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon, then we are ready to discuss this matter with it. We are ready to assure the regime in Syria that the implementation of the agreement will absolutely not affect Syria's security. On the contrary, it will support and strengthen Syria's security.

[Question] The last question is about the Soviet position toward Lebanon, toward the agreement and toward the deadlock with Syria.

[Answer] The Soviet Union's stand toward Lebanon is sound, since this position calls for the independence of Lebanon, for restoration of its sovereignty and for ensuring the withdrawal of all the non-Lebanese forces. The Soviet Union admits that it has no influential cards in the talks that deal with the Israeli evacuation from Lebanon. The Soviet Union also admits that the United States is the only superpower that can influence Israel. This does not mean that the Soviet Union is not concerned with the political developments in Lebanon and in the region. The Soviet Union will undoubtedly play an important role in setting the broad lines for a solution of the Middle East issue. As for the Lebanese issue, the policy adopted by the Lebanese authorities was the only possible way we had in mind after we discussed all the alternatives and reviewed our capabilities.

Karami Appeals To Palestinians, Syrians
NC231515 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Statement by former Prime Minister Rashid Karami on 23 June — place not given, recorded]

[Text] The coordination body has met. It had before it a string of incidents and bombings that have occurred in the past few days. This began with the Al-Bahsas massacre and was followed by other incidents. All these things stem from the same design that is aimed at Tripoli's patriotic and inter-Arab role in our area's capacity as a pioneer — thanks to its long march — in standing against everything that could threaten the homeland's sovereignty, the unity of its sons, and its relations with its environment.

Therefore it is on the basis of this major role that we say that suspicious attacks are concentrated against Tripoli for this very reason. We in return, have determined that our responsibility is to seek to rebuff these designs to preserve the security of our kinfolk and of the sons of our country. Therefore, we seek to entrench the security march in light of the past and the approved decisions that are aimed at making more arrangements tending to strengthen our position, and to enable us to preserve our compatriots' comfort. Consequently we are about to take measures, which we hope will result in unearthing the quarters that are tampering with our country and with its security. We then hope to deal with these cliques that still ignore, or that disregard, the evil consequences of their practices. We hope that what has happened with regard to the Al-Qubbah area will serve as a lesson so that all will realize their responsibility for preserving

the unity of ranks, the unity of forces, and closing all the existing breaches so that they will not be exploited or used against the interest of any of us. What has happened in Al-Qubbah — following long suffering and continuing complaints by its residents — was caused by the unethical and inhuman practices to which none of our sons or the sons of our country can remain silent, or can condone.

I am aware of the statement that has been issued by the Islamic Unification Movement explaining all that has happened. Therefore, we have determined that true patriotism and good demeanor are the saviors of society. Hence all of us must rally and stand alongside our country against all the odd practices and against all the elements that do not heed the interests of this country and of its residents. Our hope is great that the developments under way will help achieve our desire.

We also address our Palestinian brothers, because the events that are taking place among their ranks on our Lebanese scene are painful. The reason is that these events emanate from the same design and are aimed at achieving the same result; that is, wreaking havoic with our common destiny.

Therefore we appeal to all our brothers so that they will tackle their differences in accordance with democratic methods and through a dialogue, because violence only breeds more bloodshed, estrangement and conflict — and these things are in nobody's interest. We are also confident that sisterly Syria, which has always been the first to carry out patriotic actions leading to the preservation and strengthening of the march, will play the role it is required to play to help heal this rift. Political solutions are required because they close all the ranks to act against the same enemy.

Also on the same basis, we now turn to the announcement that was made on behalf of the Lebanese Council of Ministers yesterday, and on behalf of the officials, to the effect that security is lacking in the areas that are not under the authority of the legitimate government. Such words are inconsistent with reality. On the one hand, we do not find security in the areas under the control of the legitimate authority is as good as we wish it to be. On the contrary, Greater Beirut is daily being subjected to more bombings and incidents, in addition to the anxiety and pain that are gripping the people's hearts because of the patterns of behavior, and because of the actions that do not show that the government is handing down equitable verdicts. We must call attention to this discrimination so that it will be addressed, because justice and equality is the course leading to sound government and to the unification of the compatriots under the aegis of one well-founded national unity to confront dangers, and — before everything else — to confront the agreement and its results. I am almost confident that the Israeli withdrawal will not take place — even under the agreement. This state of affairs will lead to a return to the roots; that is, to the people because the people's unity is the strongest weapon for foiling this conspiracy. In my opinion, the solution lies in freezing the agreement and in discussing the comprehensive withdrawals without conditions.

On the other hand, we do not want to anticipate expectations. On the contrary, flouting of security in our areas is not beyond the jurisdiction of the authority, nor is it beyond its ability to ensure security. We do not ask for the impossible. However, at least we can ask for what is possible. When the facts unfold, everything will become evident to local and foreign public opinion.

[Question] [words indistinct, but referring to the outcome of the investigation into the Al-Bahsas massacre].

[Answer] I do not know much about the investigation. However, I emphasize that all the facts will be placed before public opinion. Ultimately, and in light of these facts, a decision will be made on all that should be done for the benefit of Tripoli, the government, and Lebanon.

Al-Wazzan, Al-Jumayyil Discuss Legislation

NC231822 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] At noon today, President Amin al-Jumayyil reviewed with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan the current situation in light of developments. They studied, in the presence of some of the ministers concerned, some bills which are under discussion.

Following the meeting, the prime minister said that some bills are ready and others are being prepared. He added: Now that the Chamber of Deputies has extended the period of the extraordinary powers and now that we are done with the question of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, we have an opportunity to pay attention to all these subjects. Prime Minister al-Wazzan further said: Things do not depend only on us, they depend on several parties. We always try to coordinate the efforts which would lead to positive results.

Regarding the security situation, al-Wazzan said that the more remote the areas, the more efforts are needed.

KUNA: Israeli Troops Attack Beirut Suburbs

LD232021 Kuwait KUNA in English 1905 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Beirut, June 23 (KUNA) — Three Lebanese civilian casualties were reported and several homes destroyed when Israeli tanks opened fire on a Beirut suburb in apparent 'revenge' for a Lebanese resistance attack.

The incident started at dawn Thursday, when Lebanese national resistance fighters attacked an Israeli military position near Kfarchima south of Beirut causing a number of casualties.

Eyewitnesses told KUNA that Israeli troops replied by firing randomly with heavy and medium automatic weapons helped by flares. They later combed the area searching for combatants.

A number of Israeli military vehicles advanced on the suburb of Salim and shelled the area. Italian troops of the multinational force stationed nearby took up defensive positions and the Israeli vehicles did not try to enter the area by force, added the eyewitnesses.

The shelling killed a Lebanese civilian and severely injured his wife and child, it was later reported, in addition to causing

considerable material damage and destroying three houses. Later in the morning Israeli planes broke the sound barrier over the capital Thursday noon, and were seen flying over other districts in Lebanon during the day.

In a further Lebanese attack against occupying troops, an Israeli soldier manning a roadblock near Khaldah was intentionally run over by a man in an unidentified civilian car, who then sped away towards Beirut without being caught.

Israeli Planes Reconnoiter Al-Biqa' 24 June

NC241038 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Our Al-Biqa' correspondent has reported that Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier around 1140 [0940 GMT] today and then carried out high-altitude reconnaissance sorties without drawing any ground fire.

Security Situation in Various Areas Updated

NC231205 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] A source in the Internal Security Forces has indicated that the Israeli forces cut the Sidon-Beirut road at the Khaldah junction from 0500 to 0515 because of suspicions about a vehicle parked on the international highway. The road was reopened after it was ascertained that the suspect car was not booby-trapped. Regarding the explosion near an Israeli patrol last night, the security source said that he does not yet have any information about this, particularly on the losses.

Concerning the mountain roads, the source said that the Beirut-Damascus international highway is passable if caution is used. However, armed men are intensively spread out along the highway beginning at Majdal 'Anjar, and are in a state of maximum alert. In the same area, an armed man was killed by an unknown source. There are no new developments in the security situation in Tripoli.

VOL Update

NC231632 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Some time ago, two shells landed in the Juniyah area. One of these shells wounded a woman of the Shahin clan and her daughter. The other shell only caused property damage.

Also in the security sphere, Suq al-Gharb this afternoon came under sporadic shelling from socialist positions. This shelling was coupled with intensive sniping. At around 1445 , a number of shells fell on the township of Wadi Shuhrur, where a house owned by Khalil 'Adwan and a building belonging to Rafiq Samaha sustained heavy damage. It has also been learned that a shell fell in the Al-Kahhalah area.

This afternoon, the Lebanese Army continued with its maneuvers in the Al-Awza'i area, firing tank and automatic weapons.

Our correspondent in Al-Biqa' says that the Syrians are preventing the group of Abu Ahmad Isma'il, the official in charge of security squad 17, from making any moves. Furthermore, the Syrians have established new barriers in the Barr Ilyas area. Our correspondent also noticed that Palestinian reinforcements are being made by the supporters of 'Arafat in the areas of Barqa, (Dayr al-Ahmar), and (Al-Quddam) in the Al-Biqa' area, in addition to other reinforcements in the outskirts of Ba'labakk-al-Hirmil. The radio correspondent adds that patrols of the so-called Arab Army of Lebanon were seen at Sa'd Nayil and Ta'labya.

It has been reported from the south that the Israeli forces today lifted the siege of the township of 'Arab Salim and released the detainees, with the exception of one person. The Israeli forces also permitted aid to be taken into the township, which has also been inspected by the governor of the south and by the commander of the gendarmerie in the area.

The Israeli forces have stepped up their security measures all along the southern coast. They also increased the number of their barricades at the approaches of Sidon, where a member of the Lebanese grouping, Nizar Daghir, was arrested.

Text of Al-Asad Hungarian TV Interview
JN231736 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1520 GMT 23 Jun 83

["Text" of interview Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad granted to Hungarian Television — date, place not given; read by announcer]

[Text][Unidentified reporter] What are Syria's reasons for rejecting the agreement concluded between Israel and Lebanon?

[President al-Asad] We cannot approve this agreement, which was in practice concluded between the United States and Israel and imposed on Lebanon. It is more correct to say that it is a U.S.-Israeli agreement imposed on Lebanon. We cannot approve it because it violates Lebanon's freedom and independence and threatens Syria's security and that of the Arab nation. Naturally, the present time is inadequate to enable us to hold an extensive discussion on the agreement, or more correctly, to enumerate and discuss all our objections to this agreement. However, I can give some examples which highlight or emphasize the soundness of our stand in Syria and the soundness of my statement that this agreement violates Lebanon's sovereignty on the one hand and exposes us in Syria and the Arab world to more danger on the other.

Among these examples is the fact that according to the agreement Lebanon cannot have air defense weapons on its territory which are effective above the altitude of 15,000 feet. This restriction is not confined to a certain part of Lebanon, but is imposed on all Lebanese territory. Another example is the fact that Lebanon cannot allow any arms shipment to pass through its lands or airspace to any other country in the world unless this country has diplomatic relations with Israel. Another fact is that Israeli Armed Forces will remain in Lebanon for an unlimited period of time to supervise and follow up the implementation of this agreement.

[Reporter] This means that your decision is final and cannot change according to circumstances and situations.

[Al-Asad] Naturally, this is our decision. In our view we do not have a preliminary decision and a final decision. Another example is that the decisions related to the implementation of this agreement in Lebanon are to be adopted by both Lebanon and Israel, who are to come to agreement. If differences arise, the decision binding to the two sides will be that of the United States. I do not know of any other free, independent country which has conceded its national decision making in this manner.

Another example is the fact that Lebanon cannot or should not allow any sabotage act against Israel from its territory or any instigation against Israel anywhere in Lebanon. These are some examples which I wanted to point out. They show the extent to which this agreement has violated the sovereignty of this independent country, which is a member of the United Nations.

Regarding the danger this agreement poses to Syria and to the Arab wold, it suffices to indicate here that the security zone fixed by Israel, and in which it imposed restrictions as cited in the agreement and its appendices, extends in some areas to only 23 or 24 km from the Syrian capital, Damascus, whereas it is more than 200 km from the Israeli capital, Tel Aviv. This is in addition to the many military and political privileges which Israel obtained in the agreement provisions. All this consititutes additonal danger to Syria and the Arab homeland and forces us to assume additional burdens. Therefore, we adopted this position on this agreement. In light of this concept and assessment we refused to agree to this agreement.

[Reporter] On what basis are U.S. officials, including George Shultz, and Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim saying that Syria will change its position, that talks will be held between Syria and the United States, and that sooner or later Syria will withdraw from Lebanon?

[Al-Asad] It is difficult to know exactly what they have in mind. As for us, we call for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions No 508 and 509. These resolutions called for the Israeli forces' unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon. Perhaps those expecting Syria's approval [of the agreement] and departure from Lebanon are thinking of cancelling this agreement. We hope that this is so.

[Reporter] It seems there are attempts by Israel to wage war on Syria. Do you expect Israel to wage war on Syria now to put pressure on it to accept the agreement and withdraw from Lebanon?

[Al-Asad] Such a thing is expected. Israel is expected to launch an attack against Syria, but it would be a fatal error for anyone to think or believe that war can make Syria accept such an agreement. I would like to make an important remark here: Israel may be able to begin the war, but it will not be able to end it. Any side may be able to begin the war, but the end of the war is bound to be dependent on the capability, activity, and will of the combatant sides. Therefore, even if the beginning of the war is the result of an Israeli will and decision, it will be difficult to make the end of the war the result of an Israeli will and decision.

[Reporter] This means that the Syrian Army is now able to repulse the Israeli aggression if it takes place?

[Al-Asad] Israel is a huge depot of diversified and sophisticated weapons, thanks to the U.S. arsenal, but we have full confidence in our ability to confront the aggression.

[Reporter] In your opinion, has the strategic balance between Israel and Syria changed since the Lebanon war?

[Al-Asad] As I said, Israel has many weapons. We can even say that Israel is overstuffed with diversified and sophisticated weapons. Still, I can say that our situation is adequate.

[Reporter] What is the extent of coordination between Syria and USSR to deter the Israeli aggression and foil Israeli military plans and U.S. attempts to enforce its solutions and plans on the region?

[Al-Asad] The USSR is a friendly country supporting the Arabs and their issues. It stands at our side and strongly supports us in our just battle against the Israeli aggression, which is fully

supported by the United States militarily, economically, politically, and in other fields. The coordination between us and the USSR is very good.

[Reporter] It seems that the Arab world is currently fragmented and divided. There are also financial and political pressures on Syria. Do you believe that the Arab world can unite behind Syria's firm stand to foil U.S. plans?

[Al-Asad] Despite the painful manifestations we see in Arab life, I cannot imagine any Arab standing by as a spectator or remaining indifferent when it becomes a matter of choice between us and Israel. At any rate, our position in Syria is to defend the Arab nation against existing and future dangers. They are, in fact, impending, fatal dangers, because Israel's ambitions are limitless. It wants to build a greater state from the Nile to the Euphrates on the assumption that the Israelis are a special people with special characteristics and, therefore, above all other peoples.

[Reporter] A chosen people.

[Al-Asad] A chosen people. The Arabs are now convinced of this, because, through its actions and behavior, Israel has left no room for doubt in the mind of any Arab that it seeks the establishment of a greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. In view of this, there is imminent danger to the Arab citizens and masses. Therefore, I again say that, in our position, we are defending our masses and Arab nation. At any rate, we are adhering to what we believe is right and is in the interest of all Arab citizens, wherever they may be. Whoever is right does not fear consequences. Whoever stands for what is right does not fear consequences.

[Reporter] During the Lebanon war, it appeared as though the Arab steadfastness front was nonexistent. Some people now believe in the need to consider the question of reorganizing this front and its work as well as coordinating its members. What is your opinion on this?

[Al-Asad] Bilateral relations between the steadfastness states are good. Contacts are continuing actively. Undoubtedly, the front, as a front, needs to be more effective. In my opinion, the lack of effectiveness has been due to the fact that we were not able to set up the institutions approved by the summit resolutions of this front. I realize that we must do something about this matter in the future. We hope we can do that when there is a common will.

[Reporter] What do you expect in the Palestinian arena after the emergence of a reform movement in the Fatah organization?

[Al-Asad] We adhere to the unity of the PLO, the Palestinian revolution, and consequently, of the revolution groups. It was on this basis that we advised our brothers in the Fatah Movement to adhere to the unity of their movement, to conduct their affairs, and to discuss their viewpoints and differences within a fraternal, democratic framework so as to reach common positions and factors serving the interest of the Fatah organization and the Palestinian revolution. We support the trend of dialogue between them and care about their unity. We hope they will achieve this as soon as possible.

[Reporter] Could such a dialogue change the PLO's previous line, meaning its position on the Reagan plan, on the dialogue with Jordan, and on the federation plan?

[Al-Asad] Actually, they complain about errors. We have heard this complaint from everyone. But we also sensed that all of them desire to plug the loopholes and carry out reform, as you said. They have principles to work on, both in the resolutions of the PNC and the resolutions of the Fatah congresses themselves. Naturally, everyone must abide by these resolutions. I do not think that anyone says that he does not abide by these resolutions. We have also heard that there are certain organizational matters that need tackling. In my opinion, it is not difficult for them to reach a solution which will serve them as an organization and a cause if they exert the necessary effort and act with a fraternal spirit in the interest of the Palestinain revolution. I do not want to discuss their affairs on their behalf. We as brothers are ready to give them every possible assistance to overcome these problems.

[Reporter] It is said that Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam may visit the United States, possibly next month. What is the purpose of the visit; is it linked to the situation in the Middle East or to bilateral Syrian-U.S. issues?

[Al-Asad] Actually, I have no knowledge of such a visit. I have read the report in the newspapers, but we have not discussed such a visit.

[Reporter] The balance of power in the Middle East is currently in the interest of the United States and Israel. In your opinion, what must you and the Arab states do to change this balance in your favor to achieve a just settlement in the Middle East?

[Al-Asad] In my discussions with everyone, I have for several years been emphasizing that a just solution to the major problem in this region is only possible through the achievement of a strategic balance between us and Israel, because this just solution has its objective bases. The main factor in these bases is this strategic balance. Events over the past few years have confirmed this fact. We are working to build ourselves up and strengthen our capability to achieve greater steadfastness. In my estimation, time cannot be in favor of falsehood. Time cannot but be in favor of right. Of course, by this I mean time which is better exploited by the people who are the targetsof injustice, persecution, and aggression. The more we understand it and the better we exploit it, the more time will be in our favor. I believe that we are seeing something like this happening and we are doing something about it. Still, we can do more and accomplish more.

Commentary Urges Dialogue Between Fatah Groups

JN231540 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Arab Syria's attitude toward the Palestine question can only be equated by its attitude toward its own national cause and destiny. If Arab Syria has devoted itself and its resources to the Palestine question — being the central issue of our pan-Arab

struggle as well as a Syrian national cause — it is out of concern for our Palestinian Arab people and the resistance groups as well as unity within the PLO. If Arab Syria is concerned about Arab solidarity and the pooling of all Arab resources and capabilities for the sake of Palestine and the Palestinian Arab people's rights, it is even more concerned about the pooling of the Palestinian people's resources and the unification of the resistance groups within the PLO. Without this unity, it will not be possible to confront the plot by the Camp David partners and those riding the bandwagon of U.S. imperialist policy to produce an alternative to the PLO.

Syria has made great sacrifices for the sake of protecting the Palestinian revolution from innumerable dangers, a fact which our enemies know even better than our friends. Since Syria has been concerned about the PLO and the unity of its groups and is the main protector and defender of the Palestinian revoltuion, it was surprised when false and baseless accusations were made against the Syrian Armed Forces. The accusations were that these forces, which are alone confronting the Zionist enemy, had intervened in favor of one of the conflicting sides in the Fatah movement.

We say it was a surprise, because the heroes of our Armed Forces in Al-Biqa' and their brother fedayeen within the Syrian lines there were themselves surprised by these lies. It was a surprise, because Syria and its Armed Forces care about everyone and call for unity, especially now that our Armed Forces are confronting the Zionist enemy and expecting an imminent Zionist aggression. We were particularly surprised by these lies and false accusations, because we in this country are only preoccupied with confronting the Zionist enemy, tackling pan-Arab issues, and preventing any fighting between our Palestinian brothers in a battlefield, where all resources and capabilities are mobilized for confrontation with the enemy, not for fighting between our Palestinian brothers.

It is obvious that there is a problem in the Fatah movement. Out of its concern for the unity of the resistance groups and the PLO, the Syrian leadership has discussed this problem and formed a high-level party committee to help solve the dispute between the two conflicting sides in the Fatah movement. We say that the committee is to help only, because we believe that disputes between our Palestinian brothers are an internal affair. If Syria had wanted to intervene and settle the dispute, developments would have taken a different course.

Unfortunately, the side which has made the false accusations against Syria has refused to cooperate with the committee and has not met with it up to now. Why then is Syria being involved in Palestinian differences and internal disputes? We have advised our brothers in the Fatah movement to hold to the unity of their movement and to tackle their affairs and discuss their differences within a fraternal democratic framework so as to reach common factors which would be in the interest of their Fatah organization and the Palestinian revolution. Syria supports the trend of dialogue between the two Fatah sides. Syria is concerned about their unity and hopes it will be achieved as soon as possible.

But what is the meaning of involving Syria in this, and what is the meaning of making false accusatiosn against Syria and its heroic Armed Forces? If the aim is blackmail, Syria will not submit to blackmail. If the aim is to cover up a failure in solving an internal problem, because of gross errors and nearsightedness, Syria is not the party to blame for other people's errors and nearsightedness. If the aim is to avoid responsibility by putting the blame on Syria, then Syria is the one who should blame the others. Syria has not and will not be blamed, because Arab Syria wishes everyone well. It hopes that our brothers in the Fatah movement will resort to dialogue in tackling their internal affairs and will seek fraternal means to settle their dispute in the service of the Palestinian revolution.

We would like to stress that lies cannot stand against truth and false accusations cannot face the obvious reality. Perhaps, the side which is telling lies and making accusations will realize that involving Syria in this matter does not serve anyone or the Palestinian revolution in any way. We in Arab Syria are only concerned about the battle against the Zionist enemy. Our only concern is to unify Arab efforts in the confrontation against this enemy.

ATH-THAWRAH Raps Al-Jumayyil's U.S. Visit

JN231010 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 23 Jun 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Required Response to the Plot," *Ath-Thawrah says: The concern, which is shown by the Lebanese patriotic popular and political sectors over the results of the feverish U.S. and Israeli contacts with the Lebanese Government, is justifiable from a practical viewpoint, especially since these contacts led to the agreement of submission and attempts to turn Lebanon into an Israeli protectorate. These contacts also led to an attempt by Washington and Tel Aviv to entrench the victor and the vanquished formula in the Lebanese arena and allow a Lebanese faction to practice sabotage and sway as well as implement the Israeli plot openly and under the protection of the Israeli arms. It is not a coincidence that the announcement of Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to Washington comes at the same time as Begin's visit. The Lebanese people cannot forget that the first visit of President Amin al-Jumayyil to Washington led to the beginning of negotiations with Israel and yielding to the agreement of submission which is considered a writ of Lebanon's capitulation to Israel and its conditions. It is not unlikely that Israel, coordinating with the United States, will generate a momentum to its criminal plot against Lebanon to achieve partition and make it a fait accompli which will be carried out by the Israeli invasion forces and the U.S. forces stationed in Lebanon under the name of the multinational forces through pre-planned steps for a partial or a tactical withdrawal or redeployment of forces. Due to their failure in gaining a Lebanese consensus and Arab support for the agreement of submission, Washington and Tel Aviv are trying to impose results so that it will become a fait accompli through military force.

Ath-Thawrah concludes: Armed with its firm and courageous stance and through its support for the Lebanese nationalist resistance, Syria represents the basic and solid base for the ADF,

which should be developed so that it will become the decisive factor in defining the form of future developments not only with regard to the situation in Lebanon and its liberation from the invaders, but also with regard to the entire Arab-Israeli conflict and to the battle of liberating the land and regaining rights.

Arens On Soviet Activity, IDF Withdrawal

TA230916 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] The defense minister believes that the Soviet Union is not happy about its increased involvement in Syria, because of the fear that should a war break out, Soviet troops would be involved. Minister Arens said that perhaps in the future the Soviets would try to limit their activity in the Syrian Army.

Speaking at the Jewish Agency convention in Jerusalem, Minister Arens said that Syria has not yet decided whether or not to withdraw from Lebanon, and for the moment its soldiers and the terrorists are trying to inflict as many casualties on the IDF as possible. He said Israel does not want to evacuate areas in Lebanon because it does not want them to fall into Syrian and terrorist hands. It wants to share the burden with the Multinational Force and the Lebanese Army.

Further Comments From Arens

TA231855 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Moshe Arens thinks the Lebanese Army and the multinational force can take over more territory than they now control. Speaking to the Jewish Agency assembly in Jerusalem, Arens said it would be a natural progression. He noted Israel already has turned over Beirut to the Lebanese and the Multinational Force, and now, he said, it is time for more.

[Begin Arens recording] What we have said to our American friends — what we have said to our Lebanese friends, is that the burden of maintaining our positions in Lebanon is first and foremost a burden in human lives, and the danger to human lives. It is also an economic burden; that that is a burden that should be shared. And the time has come that the Lebanese — for the Multinational Force, to begin to do its part. But we do not want to redeploy or leave areas simply to have the PLO and the Syrians take them over and, after having fought the battle for the Peace for Galilee, see them recover all the territory they have lost. [end recording]

Asked about the planned return of Egyptian Ambassador Murtada, Arens pointed out it is only a farewell visit. He expressed concern this might be an Egyptian maneuver to keep relations below ambassadorial level.

MK Rabin Urges Larger UN Role In Lebanon

TA230751 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] MK Yitzhaq Rabin has suggested that the United States limit its involvement in the region and allow the United Nations to increase its activity.

Speaking in Houston, he said that the U.S. Administration has failed in its efforts to persuade the Syrians and the PLO to withdraw from Lebanon, which is why it should stop the mediation efforts. MK Rabin said that the United Nations should promote the contacts over an arrangement in Lebanon and incorporate all the countries involved, including the Soviet Union. He also said that Israel must consider a unilateral withdrawal from the Beirut area, although he does not believe this should be done now.

David Levi on Lebanon, Economy, Elections

TA231850 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1730 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv, 23 Jun (ITIM) — Deputy Prime Minister and Housing Minister David Levi said this afternoon that he hopes that a solution will be found in the coming hours to the doctors' dispute. The deputy prime minister was appearing at the insurance forum at the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv.

Levi went on to review events that have occurred recently. Over the last year Israel had faced a military test, as its enemies wanted to dictate terms to it that no country could reconcile itself to. Operation Peace for Galilee was necessary to defend the northern settlements whose inhabitants had lost faith and hope, and whose children could not go to school. Today Israel is in a situation in whcih it has achieved an agreement with Lebanon, and in which it has a dialogue with the United States. "Israel is not in Lebanon to serve a foreign interest, but for its own security," he said.

He continued, saying that Israel's political situation is improving, and that this can be seen from the pronouncements by state leaders. Levi criticized those elected representatives who do not check their tongues. He said that one could disagree with the government and want it to fall, but not by every way and means, or at all times, and not with street demonstrations that become an institution in their own right.

On Israel's economic and social situation, the speaker said that it is impossible to solve all the problems, and that every step involves certain costs. Of course, much advice can be heard from every camp and circle, but few will support implementing that advice. "We all want a high standard of living, but everyone wants this at the other man's expense and not at his own," Levi said.

At the same time, he said, despite our difficult problems, there is almost no social tension. "There are many good things in Israel, and I am not an adherent of the attitude that everything is black," the deputy prime minister stressed, adding that there are areas in which we have made great progress. He said we must cast our lot with advanced industries.

As to Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statement — that because of the opposition, soldiers are being killed — he said that this expression is unacceptable to him, but then, so are the other expressions of fairly important figures.

Asked about the possibility of early elections, Levi said that while everyone talks about them, no one wants them. Levi thinks that the government must first finish its role in Lebanon, and only then go to the polls.

Schiffer Assesses Upcoming Habib Visit

TA231232 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Interview with political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer by anchorman Yitzhaq Ro'e]

[Text] [Ro'e] Philip Habib is again returning to the area, but in contrast to previous times when he was en route here, no one is holding out even the least bit of hope for any results from his trip. The assessment that has been heard — or perhaps the one that has been reached, although not voiced in Jerusalem nor even in Washington — is that no solution can be foreseen, at least not insofar as the Syrians will budge, and that Washington's policy is approaching a dead end — as is conceivably also that of Israel. Shim'on Schiffer, what do you think?

[Schiffer] The U.S. policy, as it could be heard today in Jerusalem by spokesmen who frequently confer with U.S. officials, is that U.S. policy is indeed currently approaching a dead end. The Americans are totally confused and at a loss regarding the way they have been handling the Lebanese problem. Philip Habib and Morris Draper will return to the Middle East this Saturday, and the U.S. secretary of state has openly declared that the Syrians are not prepared to see them or confer with Habib.

The question, then — obviously — is what is the purpose of their coming here, and the immediate answer coming from the State Department policymakers is that this manifests a U.S. desire to buy time and — if one may use a crass metaphor — let us say that if there is a family whose son is hasty and rash and might do unforeseen things, it would be better to hold his hand behind his back. In fact, the Americans are sending Habib to be present here, to hold the Israeli hand and conceivably encourage the Israelis to hold on to positions in Lebanon and remain there rather than take the step the Americans fear so much — namely redeployment, or more correctly, unilateral withdrawal.

[Ro'e] The Americans were quite explicit about this last week, were they not?

[Schiffer] They have been using exceedingly cautious language because they are so sensitive to the Israeli sensitivity, including that of the public, to the soldiers being killed while Israel is not taking that step, which is why they say: We understand you; however, do not act rashly.

Incidentally, one can hear strange reasons put forth by the Americans. When they are asked why the Lebanese Army should not enter the places that the IDF currently controls, such as the Ash-Shuf mountains, the Americans reply: Because there is fear for the lives of the Druze, and it is first of all necessary to achieve a national reconciliation between the Druze and the Christians. Only then will the Lebanese Army enter.

But then one must immediately automatically ask oneself: But a few months ago, when you sold the agreement between Israel and Lebanon, you claimed that the Lebanese Army would be able to enter there — that you are training it and that it is already strong enough so that even Haddad can be dispensed with as he is not necessary. Now, however, you are singing a different tune. Or, when the Americans are asked: Perhaps the Multinational Force should enter the area the IDF withdraws from, they say: No, this is a problem because any change in the deployment of the Multinational Force would require congressional approval, and this would not be obtained now because Marines might be hurt; and besides, how would U.S. public opinion react to that?

It is necessary to combat these reasonings, and we are. There are deliberations, and Habib will arrive. One could easily speculate that he will say that some obscure Saudi prince had left for Syria and whispered things in Al-Asad's ears and exerted pressure, and there is a chance.

[Ro'e] What could such an extension of time achieve and how could it help us and them?

[Schiffer] The extra time the Americans want to gain could conceivably help as far as they are concerned by way of possibly seeing the Lebanese Administration become stronger. From Israel's standpoint, one can definitely hear some political figures say today that this extra time would not yield anything. I heard a political figure say this morning that although he or she may not express this position in public. In actual fact we have nothing to do there. Israel simply must pack its bags and withdraw unilaterally, perhaps even farther back than the Al-'Awwali River, because one can no longer rely on all the promises that said this would happen.

[Ro'e] Can one conjecture anything about MK Yitzhaq Rabin's suggestion made there, not very far away from them — in Houston — that the United States ought to limit its presence and involvement in the Middle East in general?

[Schiffer] It would be difficult to assess the administration's response, because even now it is possible to hear completely conflicting reactions. In other words, there is no unanimous policy that has already been set. The absurd thing is that today it is the American that demand that we remain put, whereas a few months back they were the ones who said: You must withdraw from Lebanon.

[Ro'e] It really does sound quite paradoxical.

Lebanese Druze Offer Security Agreement

TA191426 Tel Aviv 'Al Hamishmar in Hebrew 19 Jun 83 p 2

[Report by Yehuda Tzur]

[Text] The Druze in the Ash-Shuf mountains have told national figures in Israel of an offer to sign a security agreement [heskem bitahon] that will ensure that no terrorists are found in the area between the Ash-Shuf mountains and the coastal strip south of Beirut and north of Sidon. This was revealed last night by a Druze dignitary who returned from Lebanon.

In return, the Druze demand Israel's agreement to come to their rescue if, as a result of the agreement, Syria decides to act against them after the IDF withdraws from the area. The Druze are also asking the IDF to give them back some 130-mm cannons and

other heavy arms, which were taken from them shortly before the Phalangists were allowed into the Ash-Shuf mountains. The Druze dignitary from Israel, who held long talks with leaders of Walid Junblatt's party, and even mediated between them and Israeli figures, thinks that despite the public statements of Druze leaders in Lebanon, there is still a chance to reach an agreement with them that will ensure that no terrorists are found between the Hermon area to the Ash-Shuf mountains.

Yesterday, correspondents were shown letters signed by Druze leaders in Lebanon, addressed to President Al-Jumayyil, Phalangist commander Fadi Afram, and the Lebanese chief of staff, in which the Druze suggest disarming all the organizations, except the Lebanese Army, of heavy arms as soon as next month and within a year disarming all Lebanese citizens of their personal arms.

IDF Releases 70 Dayr Qanun Villagers

TA240813 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0750 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Following intervention by Shi'ite notables from Lebanon, the IDF released 70 inhabitants of the village Dayr Qanun who had been arrested on suspicion of hostile activity and membership in terrorist organizations. Only four suspects from that village now remain under detention, including two high school students.

Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that during the meeting with IDF officers, the Shi'ite notables condemned the collaboration by the inhabitants of Dayr Qanun with the terrorist organizations.

Poll Finds Majority Support War, Redployment

TA240622 Jerusalem The Jerusalem Post in English 24 Jun 83 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Sara Honig]

[Text] Tel Aviv — A year after Operation Peace for Galilee was launched, the overwhelming majority of the public justified the launching of the operation. But this majority was almost evenly split between those who agree with the full scope of the war as it developed, and those who would have preferred a more limited objective. The majority also advocated a unilateral re-alignment of Israeli forces in Lebanon.

These are the findings of the latest *Jerusalem Post* poll, conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Research Institute under the direction of Dr Sarah Shemer. A representative sample of 1,195 persons was interviewed between June 2 and June 10.

They were asked if in view of all they knew today they considered it was justified to launch the war a year ago. Thirty-eight and a half percent thought there was full justification for the war; 37.2 percent thought the war was justified but that Israel should have stopped when it cleared the 45-kilometre security zone north of the border; and 17 percent thought Israel should not have launched the operation. Another 6.2 percent said they had not decided, and 1.1 percent gave no reply.

Among Likud voters, 62 percent justified the full scope of the war, whereas among Alignment voters 50.4 percent said Israel should have stopped at the 45 km line. Only 29.3 percent of the public thought the Israel Defence Forces should stay in Lebanon till the Syrians agree to leave. A unilateral re-alignment of Israel's forces along the Al-'Awwali River was advocated by 38.9 percent of those polled. Only 15.5 percent advocated a full unilateral withdrawal of the IDF; 11.9 percent didn't know; 2.9 percent gave a variety of other suggestions; and 1.5 percent did not reply.

Sharon, Iranian Reportedly Discuss Arms Supplies

TA240835 Tel Aviv Ha'aretz in Hebrew 24 Jun 83 p 1

["Exclusive" report from New York by Shlomo Shamir]

[Text] New York — Minister Sharon met secretly in London with a senior Iranian Army officer. This was reported today by *Hamevaqer, a Hebrew weekly published in New York.*

The weekly, citing a reliable source in Jerusalem, reports that Sharon met with the senior Iranian Military officer during a 2-day stay in London. Colonel Ya'aqov Nimrodi, of the reserves, who was the last Israeli military attache to Tehran, took part in the meeting as well. Nimrodi is now a businessman.

Hamevaqer adds that according to (?this) source, Sharon and Nimrodi discussed with the officer the possibility of supplying Israeli arms to Iran, including spare parts for tanks and fighter planes, and military information.

The weekly also reported in its current issue that Pope John Paul II intends to visit Israel.

Peres Urges Emergency Knesset Session on Strike

TA231720 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres has called for the convening of an emergency Knesset session tomorrow if the doctors' strike does not end. Speaking at a Labor Party session, he also urged the sides to submit to agreed-upon arbitration to decide those matters still in dispute.

New Faction Formed Within Liberal Party

TA230724 Tel Aviv Ha'aretz in Hebrew 23 Jun 83 p 1

[Report by party affairs correspondent Amnon Barzilay]

[Excerpts] A new faction, formed by four Knesset members and headed by Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor, was established in Jerusalem yesterday. The faction includes Yitzhaq Berman, Dan Tikhon, and Dror Zeigerman, and is claiming the slot in the Cabinet reserved for the Liberals now empty in the wake of Simha Ehrlich's death.

ALGERIA

Foreign Minister Ibrahimi To Visit Damascus

LD232324 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, will go to Damascus as a personal envoy of President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the FLN, to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and the Palestinian leaders.

The president of the republic yesterday [23 June] received Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi at the presidential palace prior to his departure for Damascus.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Maltese Foreign Minister

LD231103 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Jun (JANA) — The leader of the revolution yesterday received the Maltese foreign minister, Alex Sceberra Trigona, who conveyed a message from Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff. Mr Sceberra Trigona arrived in Tripoli the day before yesterday.

Sceberra Trigona Departs 23 June

LD232114 Tripoli JANA in English 1828 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Tripoli, Ramadan 13, June 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Malta's Foreign Minister Dr. Alex Sceberra Trigona left Tripoli this afternoon after his visit to the Jamahiriyah.

Al-'Ubaydi Meets Arab League Representative

LD231754 Tripoli JANA in English 1617 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Tripoli, Ramadan 13, June 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The secretary of the People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau, 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, this afternoon met the delegate of the Arab League secretary who handed him a letter concerning the results of the secretary's recent contacts with the Arab states regarding the current Arab situation and the risks involved in the Lebanese-Israeli agreement.

ETHIOPIA

COPWE Delegation Leaves for Moscow 22 June

LD221503 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 22 Jun 83

[Text] A 15-member delegation led by Comrade Debela Dinsa, COPWE Central Committee member and COPWE representative for Shawa region, left for a 10-day working visit to Moscow this morning to gain experience from the CPSU.

Comrade Debela Dinsa said the delegation's visit will provide an opportunity to obtain valuable insights to be applied in the formation of the party.

The delegation was seen off by Comrade Girma Neway, member of the COPWE Central Committee and head of the Agitation and Propaganda Department in the COPWE office.

KENYA

National Assembly's Deputy Speaker Resigns

EA221551 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 22 Jun 83

[Text] The deputy speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Moses arap Keino, has resigned from the post with immediate effect. Addressing a press conference in Parliament buildings today, Mr Keino told newsmen that his resignation has already been accepted. Mr Keino, who is also the MP for Kericho East, said he was quitting the post because his employer, the National Assembly, is dissatisfied with his work. Mr Keino said his resignation was necessitated by a ruling made last week during a debate on Rungiri Pcea church prayers in Kikuyu Division.

TANZANIA

Diplomatic Relations Established With Bangladesh

EA230655 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1900 GMT 22 Jun 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam: Tanzania and Bangladesh have agreed to establish relations at the ambassadorial level.

A statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the Bangladesh Government has appointed its high commissioner in Kenya, Mr Kidria, as its high commissioner to Tanzania. He will continue to live in Kenya.

UGANDA

Border Talks With Kenyan Officials Reported

EA231629 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Excerpt] Ugandan and Kenyan officials in the border districts of Tororo and Busia have hailed the level of cooperation between the two countries which has led to the curbing of smuggling and illegal exchange of currency.

The officials, who met in Tororo, discussed topics ranging from smuggling of goods to control of diseases like cholera. They noted that working together has helped to control the outbreaks of cholera, especially in towns like Busia, which are very highly populated.

On the question of security along the border, the two delegations appealed to chiefs on either side to meet regularly to work with the police in curbing down cases of armed robbery and to maintain law and order.

The Kenyan delegation was led by the district commissioner of Busia, Mr Nicholas Mberia, and included the district commissioner of Bungoma, Mr Francis (Keitanye). The Ugandan side was led by the district commissioner of Tororo, Mr Israel Wabwire, and included the district commissioner of Mbale, Mr Tom (Wagatum), and the administrative secretary of Tororo, Mr (Isaac Soda).

CAMEROON

Correction to Cameroon Cabinet Reshuffle

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Major Cabinet Reshuffle Announced 18 June," published in the 22 June Middle East and Africa *Daily Report*, page S 1:

The final name provided in the table of officials, that of the minister of commerce, should be Michael Namaya.

CHAD

Reportage on Fighting Near Faya-Largeau

Habre's Lagos Visit Cancelled

AB232025 Paris AFP in English 1843 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Lagos, June 23 (AFP) — Fighting in northern Chad between government troops and the forces of former President Goukouni Oueddei have prevented head of state Hissein Habre from making an expected visit to Lagos this weekend, a diplomatic source said here today.

However, a ministerial delegation from Ndjamena will still visit Nigeria, the source said. The two sides are expected to discuss both the fighting in the north and the border dispute between Nigeria and Chad which has led to the closure of the vital road link between Maiduguri in northern Nigeria and Ndjamena through Cameroon. Observers did not rule out a formal request from Chad for assistance both in reopening the road to much-needed food supplies and in resisting attacks by Goukouni Oueddei's troops. Rebel forces of Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government (GUNT), installed in Bardai near the Libyan border, were today said to have attacked the key Chadian town of Faya-Largeau with support from Tripoli.

A reliable source here said that Mr Habre had sent a message on Tuesday to Nigerian President Shehu Shagari announcing his intention of coming to Lagos to discuss "subjects of common interest."

Reports here also said that Mr Habre, who seized power a year ago, could also play host this weekend to a high-level delegation from Egypt, which like Sudan, France and the United States, does not want to see a pro-Libyan regime in Ndjamena.

The Chadian delegation visiting Lagos is expected to include Foreign Minister Idriss Miskine or his deputy, Ahmet Korom, who two months ago negotiated an agreement to end the border fighting centring on islands in Lake Chad.

Official Cites Foreign 'Guarantees'

AB231500 Paris AFP in French 1356 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Paris, 23 Jun (AFP) — Allam-Mi Ahmad, the Chadian charge d' affaires in Paris, has told AFP that the town of Faya-Largeau in northern Chad was attacked on Thursday morning by the forces of Goukouni Oueddei. The assault was carried out with Libyan air support.

The charge d'affaires noted that Hissein Habre's government forces were holding the town and that fighting was going on early this afternoon.

During a press conference held on Thursday morning, Mr Allam-Mi Ahmad denounced the Libyan "military preparations" for an attack on Faya-Largeau. He claimed that a Libyan Air Force unit has been set up at Aouzou, and added that movements by the rival forces have been observed between 35 and 60 kilometers northeast and east of the town.

"The garrison has the necessary manpower, capacity, and determination to repulse any attack," he said, adding: "Chad has received guarantees from friendly countries in the event of a massive intervention by Libya."

The American authorities on Wednesday described the attack on the town as "imminent." According to them, several armed columns [word indistinct] by Libya were approaching Faya-Largeau "with the active logistical support of the Libyan Army."

In the middle of last May, fighting took place in the Ounianga Kebir region (200 kilometers northeast of Faya-Largeau) in which 321 people were killed and 135 wounded, according to [word indistinct] in Bardai in the extreme north of Chad, where Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) is based.

This GUNT offensive against the Chadian National Armed Forces (FAN) of Hissein Habre ended a few days later. A GUNT spokesman in Paris announced that after reaching the limits of the town, the GUNT forces were obliged to retreat. The GUNT's determination to capture Faya-Largeau and Ndjamena remains firm, however. Thus, GUNT Foreign Minister Mahmat Nour declared during the OAU summit held in Addis Ababa early in June: "We will march on Ndjamena."

GUNT Denies Foreign Support

AB231615 Paris AFP in French 1524 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Paris, 23 Jun (AFP) — Speaking in Paris today, a representative of Goukouni Oueddei, president of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] opposed to the regime in Ndjamena, confirmed the attack on Faya-Largeau by GUNT troops. However, he categorically denied any foreign support. The Chadian charge in Paris announced today that Libyan planes were involved in the battle.

"We categorically refute the existence of any foreign troops in our ranks and the support of any aircraft," Adoum Yacoub, Goukouni Oueddei's adviser, told AFP this afternoon, pointing out that "fighting is continuing and our forces are advancing at the predicted pace."

Adoum Yacoub said the allegation of an "imaginary air cover" is designed to account for "foreign intervention" being "plotted

in Washington and in Paris" and which "threatens to prompt others, thus internationalizing an exclusively Chadian problem."

"In the event of any foreign interference, the GUNT will call in its own friends," Mr Yacoub stated.

The GUNT, which is backed by Libya, is currently established in Bardai, in the far north of Chad, close to the Aouzou Strip, the Chadian district under Libyan occupation.

GUNT Forces 'Contained'
AB232010 Paris AFP in English 1901 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Ndjamena, June 23 (AFP) — Fighting was continuing late today between government and rebel forces around the northern Chadian town of Faya-Largeau, 1,000 kilometres (650 miles) from here, reliable sources said in Ndjamena.

The sources said that the forces of ousted President Goukouni Oueddei had not been able to make a decisive breakthrough, and were being contained by the army of President Hissein Habre.

Meanwhile the situation in the capital was calm, with no signs of nervousness among the inhabitants. However, the state radio at midday called on soldiers on leave to rejoin their units.

The opposing forces are estimated at 3,000 men on the rebel side and 2,500 on the government side.

Observers here said an attack on Faya-Largeau had been expected for several days. Two columns of troops of Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional Government of National Union (GUNT) based at Bardai in northern Chad were known to be approaching the town [words indistinct] (?west) and Ounianga Kebir to the northeast.

However there was no confirmation here of the Libyan artillery or air support alleged by the United States and Chad's charge d'affaires in Paris and denied by a GUNT representative in the French capital.

The result of the battle will be extremely important for the future of Chad. Faya-Largeau is a key centre on the road to Ndjamena, and its fall would have a serious psychological effect in the capital.

The closing of the Chad-Nigeria border is making the situation more difficult for the Chadian authorities and might eventually lead to shortages, notably of fuel, it is believed in Ndjamena.

GUNT Claims Faya-Largeau Falls
AB240958 Paris AFP in French 0955 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Paris, 24 Jun (AFP) — A spokesman for the Transitional National Union Government of Chad (GUNT), which is opposed to the government in Ndjamena, affirmed in Paris that the town of Faya-Largeau in the north of Chad fell early on Friday morning to the forces of Goukouni Oueddei.

According to the spokesman, Adoum Yacoub, the fighting, which began on Thursday morning, was interrupted at night. "Our forces" he said, "progressed at the expected pace. The offensive resumed early on Friday and led to the capture of the town."

Government Spokesman Denies Capture
AB241039 Paris AFP in French 1020 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Paris, 24 Jun (AFP) — Allam-Mi Ahmad, Chad's charge d'affaires in France, categorically denied on Friday morning that the town of Faya-Largeau in the north of Chad had fallen. This had been announced shortly before in Paris by the spokesman of Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government of Chad (GUNT).

"Despite the important means employed by the attackers and the Libyan air support which proved ineffective," said Allam-Mi, "the Chadian National Armed Forces (FAN) were able to repulse the attacks of the enemy forces composed of "Chadian puppets" (Ndjamena's term for Goukouni Oueddei's troops) supported by the Libyan foreign legion and Tripoli's regular forces."

"Pursuit operations have been launched against the enemy, who is now 25 kilometers away from Faya-Largeau. The fighting is continuing," Mr Allam-Mi added.

More on Faya-Largeau Battle
AB241100 Paris AFP in English 1042 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Excerpts] Ndjamena, June 24 (AFP) — Both sides in the Chadian conflict today claimed to be holding the key northern town of Faya-Largeau early today.

In Ndjamena an official source said that Faya-Largeau, which is about 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) to the north, was still in the hands of the Chadian National Armed Forces (FAN) of Hissein Habre's government. However, the source said that there had been a fierce bombardment of government positions by GUNT [Transitional National Union Government] artillery, including multiple rocket launchers. "All the advance posts, the main roads and the heights dominating the oasis of Faya-Largeau are still in FAN hands," a Chadian official told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. He added that the airstrip southeast of the town was out of range of the attackers.

It was also announced here that the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which recognises Mr Habre's government, had been officially informed of the attack on Faya-Largeau, and "Chad's friends" were being regularly brought up to date on the situation.

A government communique last night reported the attack on Faya, which began early yesterday, and repeated accusations by the United States and Sudan that Libyan regular forces were taking part. Western diplomatic sources said here that any Libyan aid was essentially air and artillery support, though there was no definite proof that aircraft were being used.

Faya-Largeau is in fact an oasis 80 kilometers (50 miles) long and ten (six) wide. From a military point of view it is of vital strategic importance as there are few other defendable positions between it and Ndjamena.

GHANA

More on Aftermath of Unsuccessful Coup Attempt

Quainoo Praises Troops

AB230830 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] The force commander, Brigadier Arnold Quainoo, has praised members of the Armed Forces for their rapid and loyal support in rallying to the defense of the republic. In a message congratulating the forces on their discipline, selflessness, and courage, the force commander mentioned especially the gallant troops who fearlessly stormed Broadcasting House in Accra to dislodge the subversive elements, adding that they deserve the grateful thanks of every patriotic Ghanaian. He said there is much work still ahead. I know you are ever prepared to undertake any mission you may be assigned in furtherance of the revolution, and together you and I will see our noble aim through to the end. Brigadier Quainoo recalled what he said on 31 December 1981 that, and I quote: Our revolution is founded on moral and spiritual foundations and the truth, and that any form of aggression from any quarter — land, air, or sea, covert or overt, will be met squarely and crushed. He said: Blinded by arrogance and greed, the enemy ignored this warning and subjected the country to yet another unnecessary attack on Sunday, but once again they were routed in the brilliant counteraction by loyal troops.

More Prison Escapees Listed

AB230850 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] The PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] has released more names of those who escaped from prison during last Sunday's attempt by dissident elements and anarchists to create confusion and disorder in the country. An official statement gave their names as Kwame Agyima, Staff Sergeant S. Amoako, Corporal Ofori Boateng, Staff Sergeant J. Larbi, Corporal F. Boateng, Corporal P.K. Mensah, Staff Sergeant Fordjour, Lance Corporal Abebrese, Corporal S. Gyima, Corporal Kwaku Duah.

Others are Corporal S.S. Moro, Sergeant Patrick Okyere, Staff Sergeant Thomas Boampong, Corporal Isaac Opare, Lance Corporal Yakubu Mohamed, Lance Corporal Tweneboah-Kodua, Corporal A. Oppong, Private Tahiru Narpeh, Private Amadu Mahama, Corporal Ebenezer Anaman.

The rest are Police Corporal Kobina Abass Dapula, Lance Corporal John Gyandu, Corporal Appiah Boateng, Lance Corporal Deku, Lance Corporal Moro, Private Twumhene, Captain Owu, Private Samuel Yeboah, Captain Bimpong, and Captain Bonney.

The statement, however, calls on any member of the public who has information on any of the wanted men to report to the nearest police station or military barracks.

26 Killed on 19 June

AB231508 Paris AFP in English 1441 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Excerpt] Accra, June 23 (AFP) — Twenty-six people died and six were wounded in Sunday's abortive coup d'etat attempt in Ghana, according to official figures issued here.

The casualties occurred in fighting at Nsawam prison, James Fort and Ussher Fort prisons in the Accra area and at the radio station in the capital.

The rebel soldiers, who announced the fall of the ruling Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) over the radio before being overpowered, are said to have acted in collaboration with Ghanaian exiles in neighbouring Togo.

A further nine people have been killed and two others seriously wounded in "search and destroy" operations against fugitive rebels who ignored an ultimatum to surrender, it was also announced. The public was warned to expose any others in hiding.

Editorials on Coup Cited

AB230935 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Press review]

[Text] In an editorial headed "The Real SIB [Special Investigations Board] Report," the *Ghanaian Times* comments on a statement made by the spokesman of the dissidents in last Sunday's abortive insurrection to the effect that the actual report of the SIB would be published soon. In a sense, the paper says, it would be true to say that the SIB report is not real, as a careful study of it shows how a conglomeration of fact, rumor, hearsay, supposition, and wishful thinking was manipulated to arrive at certain findings.

Quoting a chief superintendent, the *Times* says the report is not the real one as some of the interrogations were not recorded and considerable portions of the recorded proceedings were not included in the final document. It points out that the omitted portions, far from containing any evidence against those whom the board sought to implicate in its findings, would only have served to show even more clearly how flimsy were some of those findings if they had been included. In the opinion of the *Times*, the board went beyond its mandate to investigate and rather became a species of a trial. [as heard] The *Times* calls on the chairman of the board to enlighten it on last Sunday's disclosure that a real report exists.

The *People's Daily Graphic* continues with its series on last Sunday's abortive attempt by dissidents to overthrow the PNDC. According to the paper, reports from most parts of the country indicate that some people jumped into the streets to jubilate after the first announcement that the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] had been overthrown. Some went to the extent of harrassing PDC [People's Defense Committee] members while

others arrested PDC and WDC [Workers Defense Committee] executives on the pretext that their government had fallen. It continues that these people withdrew after the counter-announcement that the rebellion had been crushed.

The *Graphic* observes that these people are misguided and can be easily forgiven for jubilating after the first announcement last Sunday, but it notes that there is another group of people who jubilated. These hid their personal interests behind those of the common people and are the very people who have cheated the country over the years. The *Graphic* named some members of the group as contractors, lawyers, landlords, and so-called businessmen who have duped this nation or exploited the people before the 31 December revolution, as people who would naturally be happy to hear the fall of the PNDC. The paper points out that even though the character of the policies of those who made the abortive attempt was unknown, it was certain that a repressive, autocratic, and exploitative government was envisaged. The *Graphic says Ghana is too noble a place to admit terrorist ways* of doing things, and that it is becoming increasingly evident that class interests do not allow certain people to admit that the people's revolution is in the making.

NIGERIA

Daily Welcomes Mengistu Call on Military Bases

AB231620 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The recent call to African leaders by the current OAU chairman, Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, not to allow the use of military bases in their countries by foreign powers is described by the Nigerian *Standard* as commendable, and, more importantly, as a timely warning. According to the paper, the OAU chairman told newsmen that permitting such powerful countries to set up military bases in the continent will amount to encouraging global instability and negative peace efforts, as well as strengthening the existing cold war. The *Standard* urges all African leaders to take Col Mengistu's warning seriously and to concentrate instead on developing the various sectors of the countries' economies.

Writing on last week's coup attempt in Ghana, the Nigerian *Tribune calls on the Ghanaian leader, Flight Lieutenant Jerry* Rawlings, to return the country to a democratic administration. Although the paper commends the efforts made so far by the Ghanaian military leader in reactivating that country's economy, it believes that a return to a civilian government is better than what it called a self-imposed (?leader).

MOZAMBIQUE

Financing Agreement Signed With France

MB231335 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] The governments of Mozambique and France signed a financing contract for the implementation of various economic development projects in our country in the fields of agriculture, industry, textiles, cotton, and copra, among other areas.

According to today's edition of the newspaper *Noticias*, the investment amounts to approximately 1.5 million contos. French investment in the economic development of Mozambique will greatly exceed that amount with the signing of other development agreements that have already been arranged. Such investments are carried out through the French Central Economic Cooperation Fund. For Mozambique, the coordination of the financial transactions is conducted by the Bank of Mozambique.

It will be noted that the director general of the French Central Economic Cooperation Fund visited out country recently to inspect the areas where the projects will be implemented.

Official Comments on Relations With Europe

PM221520 Rome Avanti! in Italian 15 Jun 83 p 12

[L. Nu. report: "Mozambique: Europe Must Choose Between Us and South Africa"]

[Text] A press conference on Mozambique, and, in particular, on cooperative relations between Italy and the African country, was held yesterday at the Institute for Italy's Relations With Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. The speakers were Antonio Sumbane, secretary of state and member of the Mozambique Liberation Front Central Committee, and Ismail Osman, the official responsible for international cooperation.

Sumbane said that Europe is greatly interested in the future of Mozambique. For a long time following independence, many European countries had serious reservations about the policy pursued by the Mozambique Government. These doubts no longer exist and the most evident consequence is increased cooperation with Mozambique. In this regard, Italy is in the forefront of Europe both at the government level (as shown by the creation of the Italian-Mozambique Joint Committee) and at the level of nongovernmental bodies, which are involved in many programs within the African country. It is the steadfast intention of the Mozambique Government to strengthen this cooperation. Submane was asked for an assessment of the present political situation in his country, especially in light of the latest attack by the South African Air Force on the capital, Maputo. The secretary of state replied that the situation is now clear: The racist South African Government has no respect for peace. With its latest aggression it confirmed the intention to conduct an international propaganda campaign to show the existence of African National Congress bases in Mozambique. Members of the diplomatic corps visiting the sites of the bombardment immediately after the attack were able to verify the absolutely unfounded nature of such assertions. There is an equally evident attempt to pass off gangs of bandits armed by South Africa as groups in opposition to the present Mozambique regime. In fact, they merely constitute a destabilizing group that will inevitably collapse, together with the South African regime. The important thing is not to turn South Africa into another Middle East.

The majority of industrialized West European countries have too many economic interests tied to the Pretoria government. This prevents them from adopting a clear stance with respect to South Africa and the liberation movements. Sumbane expressed the hope of more direct and specific actions. Meetings and conferences are important because they make the real situation known, which is often distorted — but they are not enough. European countries currently linked economically to South Africa must realize that the racist Pretoria regime will not last much longer and must therefore choose between economic interests with a racist government and future economic interests with a people's government.

In answer to a specific question, Sumbane noted that there has been no turnabout in the economic policy of Mozambique since 1977. The privatization of enterprises is merely a strengthening of decisions taken at that time, an attempt to adapt to new requirements.

In conclusion, the secretary of state pointed out that Mozambique is a socialist country and, as such, has its natural allies in the socialist countries. But Mozambique seeks relations of cooperation with all countries, and Sumbane urged those who want to show their friendship to do so now, at the time of need, as Italy is doing.

SOUTH AFRICA

Spokesman Confirms Talks With Lesotho

MB231428 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] A spokesperson for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Information in Cape Town has confirmed that senior officials from South Africa and Lesotho held talks in Bloemfontein today. The spokesperson said the talks arose from the recent discussions between the foreign affairs ministers of the two countries. Today's talks dealt with security and other matters.

Lesotho's foreign affairs minister, Mr Sekhonyana, had also made an earlier announcement from Maseru on the talks. He said that as long as the two countries could talk open-heartedly and solve their problems in a friendly manner, it would not be necessary to go to the UN Security Council.

ANC's Tambo Interviewed on Struggle

AB221655 Paris AFP in English 1630 GMT 22 Jun 83

[By Jean-Michel Stoullig]

[Text] Lusaka, June 22 (AFP) — The African National Congress (ANC) refuses to make the "frontline" states bear the burden of

its struggle against the South African regime, according to ANC President Oliver Tambo.

In an interview with AFP here, Mr Tambo said that the ANC had developed its struggle inside South Africa, away from the borders. Several frontline states bordering South Africa, such as Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique, have expressed fears of South African raids in retaliation for ANC activities.

A month ago, the ANC planted a lethal bomb at South African Airforce headquarters in Pretoria. Three days later the airforce bombarded a suburb of Maputo, the Mozambican capital.

Mr Tambo conceded that despite the ANC's opting for what he called an "area war," neighbouring states had been targets of South African aggression, "so in a way we have failed to protect them."

But he said that unlike other liberation movements, the ANC had avoided border areas and not used other countries as a base from which to launch attacks, "precisely to minimise the burden for other countries."

Mr Tambo described as a "gross misrepresentation" of the ANC's position the suggestion that the ANC was seeking to encourage the growth of a conflict over the whole of southern Africa in order to bring external pressure on Pretoria, notably from the West. He said that the ANC had no bases or military camps in any country bordering South Africa. When ANC militants trained abroad returned to South Africa via such countries, this was without the knowledge of their governments, he said.

Mr Tambo said he had no information on a reported recent incident in which the South African authorities claim to have captured two ANC members who had come from Zimbabwe. At the same time he expressed surprise that the government in Harare should be held responsible. "Suppose somebody enters Mozambique without the knowledge of the Mozambican comrades, enters Swaziland without the knowledge of the Swazi Government, leaves Swaziland without their knowledge, enters South Africa without the knowledge of the South African regime, and is found somewhere in Pretoria or Bloemfontein," he said. "Why is Swaziland or Mozambique more to blame than South Africa?"

Asked about last month's car bomb attack in Pretoria, in which 19 people were killed and about 200 wounded, Mr Tambo said that civilian casualties were "not intended." "What was attacked was a military establishment."

Many earlier ANC actions had been aimed at economic targets, one of the most spectacular being an attack last December on a nuclear power station under construction at Koeberg, in Cape Province.

ANC leaders stress that political action, notably in the trade unions, remains the main aspect of the struggle, and Mr Tambo said there had been no change of strategy. He said that in the last 20 years, in hundreds of armed and sabotage actions, there had been "virtually" no injury to persons, and that this had been deliberate. This was to be compared with the South African regime, which massacred civilians and children, for example during the 1976 Soweto riots, he said.

The ANC in 1980 signed the Geneva Convention excluding attacks on civilians, he said, although in the South African context it was "difficult to define civilians." "The ordinary white people are not those whom we are fighting," he said. However most whites in South Africa are liable for military service and thus take part in the state's repression of black people.

Mr Tambo dismissed the view that the ANC has been radicalised by the influence of young people who fled Soweto seven years ago forcing the "old guard" to accept attacks against persons. "It is pure fiction," he said.

Mr Tambo confirmed that his recent trip to China meant a political rapprochement with Beijing, which would be giving arms to the movement and was ready to train ANC guerrillas. Beijing is traditionally closer to the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC), which split from the ANC in 1958, and Moscow had been the ANC's main supporter.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Rejects Call for Relations With Israel

AB231538 Paris AFP in English 1528 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Lusaka, June 23, AFP — President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia yesterday in Lusaka described as "baseless" a recent call by the Liberian head of state, Commander in Chief Samuel Doe, for African countries to reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel.

Reiterating that Zambia would not consider re-establishing relations with Israel, President Kaunda described Israel as the "South Africa of the Middle East." "For as long as Israel had an oppressive regime there was no basis for African countries to re-establish ties," he said.

On Sunday, Commander in Chief Doe appealed to African nations to "take a new and more constructive" attitude on Israel. He disclosed that he was "seeking the conference" [as received] of Liberia's ruling Military Council to open talks with Israel.

Zaire, Swaziland, Malawi and South Africa are the only African countries which have diplomatic relations with Israel. Most broke off relations after the October 1973 Middle East war.

Refugees Fighting Neighbors Not To Be Tolerated

AB231220 Paris AFP in English 1144 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Lusaka, June 23 (AFP) — Zambia has vowed not to harbor refugees fighting neighboring governments, in an apparent reference to Jonas Savimbi's UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) rebels who are fighting the authorities in Luanda. Zambian Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia told a visiting official from the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) yesterday that his gov-

ernment was worried about the influx of refugees this year. About 90,000 refugees, most of them Angolans, are in Zambia. Many of them have fled fighting between government troops and South African-backed UNITA rebels in eastern Angola which appears to have increased in intensity since the beginning of this year.

Mr Mundia, in apparent concern over the possibility that UNITA guerrillas might find shelter among the Angolan refugees, told the UNHCR's East and southern Africa representative, Dessalegn Chefeke, that while Zambia would help genuine refugees, it "will not tolerate those involved in subversive activities against their governments."

The statement comes ahead of a meeting due in Kinshasa this weekend between President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire. The three are expected to discuss activity inside Angola by UNITA and also the FNLA [Angolan National Liberation Front] guerrilla movement, which was based in Zaire during the 1975/76 Angolan civil war and later fell into disarray, but according to some reports has recently been revived.

Delegation Leaves for Prague Conference

MB221020 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 22 Jun 83

[Text] A four-man party delegation has left for Prague, Czechoslovakia, to attend the World Assembly on Peace, Life, and Against Nuclear War. The delegation is composed of Central Committee members Mr (Bobli Kana) and Mrs (Marth Kankatra), the minister of home affairs, Mr Frederick Chomba, and Mr (Kennedy Sipande), administration secretary of the Youth League.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Calls for Cooperation With Bulgaria

MB231303 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has called for increased cooperation between Zimbabwe and Bulgaria. Comrade Mugabe made the call when he received a portrait of himself, painted by a Bulgarian artist, (Savha Savho). He said this gift of the Bulgarian people to the people of Zimbabwe should serve as a basis for increased cooperation between the two countries. The prime minister said Zimbabwe and Bulgaria share the same views on the question of decolonization, stressing that man must be free from the shackles of colonialism and imperialism. He said the gift is a reminder that both countries should strive to pursue an identical ideological course as socialist allies.

The Bulgarian ambassador to Zimbabwe, Comrade Khristo Kolev, who presented the portrait to the prime minister, described Comrade Mugabe as a pragmatic leader who has laid a firm foundation for a socialist Zimbabwe. Comrade Kolev said future generations would draw inspiration and hope from the portrait. The portrait will be displayed in Parliament.

Radio Truth Notes Corruption in ZANU-PF

MB231555 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in Ndebele and English to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 21 Jun 83

[Text] [In Ndebele] A British magazine says that Zimbabwe has over 5,000 political prisoners held in different camps. This report was published in the *New Statesman* magazine and is known worldwide. It reported that prisoners have not been charged and that they have no way of consulting with their lawyers. These people do not have lawyers and they have given up hope because they do not know what the future has in store for them.

Mugabe and Dr Chidzeru do not hesitate to suspect other people whenever any sort of trouble occurs. They blame other people for the shortages of cooking oil, candles, petrol, flour, and matches. What is the truth?

From the very top of the ruling hierarchy to the very bottom, corruption and chicanery are a way of life. Money donated by other countries is used to buy cars for ZANU-PF members. These automobiles then fall apart and are damaged because their drivers are under the influence of liquor.

Rumors from Europe and America say that Mugabe and Canaan Banana buy their clothing in Switzerland and that they pay cash on the spot. These leaders are accompanied on their overseas travels by an additional 10 committee chairmen, 20 secretaries, and we don't know how many bodyguards and relatives — none of whom have made personal requests to the Romanians, Chinese, and North Koreans. This accounts for some of the money being misused and yet they talk and say there is no money. Whose money is being misused in this way?

Another surprising thing about the ZANU-PF leadership is that the 54 million dollars being used to build ZANU-PF headquarters has been swindled from the people. We must ask the question: What will happen to this house should ZANU-PF lose the forthcoming elections? What will become of this headquarters? It is obvious that it will remain the property of ZANU-PF, even though it was built using the Zimbabwean nation's money. It will not be treated as a national asset for use by the then current government. If ZANU-PF is defeated in the elections, it means that the winning party will also expect the people to dig in their pockets and finance the construction of its monument.

We know the truth that from the very top of the hierarchy, from the president himself, to the councillors in Marondela town, ZANU-PF servants are paid to do evil unto the people.

The outside world knows that this country has secret police and others who terrorize the people. It is known within and outside the country that the economic development and foreign reserves of Zimbabwe are at a very low level, but the leaders of government and the ministers do not see this. They are interested in their travels and well-being. Present hiring methods are not defined in law except to favor employers. Hiring and firing cannot be done without the permission of the government chairman. The government has raised the taxes in all spheres because of its cockeyed manner of looking at everything. It does not examine the employers' operational expenses.

What does the government's move to the left mean? What is it intending for us? It is obvious to foreign nations that under the leadership of Banana, like all the other nations that have just attained independence, Zimbabwe also has people fighting for positions. There is a prominent Cabinet minister, Herbert Ushewokunze, very jealous, with his army of 2500 comprised of troublemakers, thieves, and terrorists. Ushewokunze, a man with an evil heart, is after the premiership. He is a doctor who used to sell stolen pills and abort pregnant mothers. Even today he is still not entered in the medical register for practicing physicians, despite the fact that attempts in that direction are being made.

Next is the coward and murderer, Edgar Tekere. This man hates whites, is jealous, and is hungry for the premiership, just like Ushewokunze. For the time being, Tekere has not been successful in coming up with useful ploys. He, too, has his own 2,000-strong force of thieves, robbers, and troublemakers. This force used to be at Betners Bridge and always used to scare, terrorize, and murder the residents of that area.

Another of these is Eddison Zvobgo, who does not care to see the difference between good and bad. We have not yet heard whether he, too, is hungry for the premiership, but we know that he is evil and conniving and that he is capable of poisoning one to death, or stabbing one, or shooting one if he realizes that the danger of being discovered is remote.

We must not forget Emmerson Munangagwa, chief of the Central Intelligence Organization and the one who holds the power in Zimbabwe. He is the pus of the Zimbabwean Government. Munangagwa is the one who knows where all the corpses are buried. He has the ability and power to deceive people. He sees himself as fit to be prime minister of Zimbabwe, and it is only now that he will try to find means of usurping that position.

We know that there are more political prisoners in all six camps which house such persons than there were prisoners of war during the war with Rhodesia. It is not surprising that foreign countries are no longer injecting money into Zimbabwe. Nations of different colors and sympathies do not lead him. Mugabe, whose wishes and desires are unopposed in Zimbabwe, must approve every action himself. There is no one who can be promoted without his say so. There is no law that can be passed without his knowledge, and no selection to his Cabinet without his endorsement.

Mugabe is on very good terms with Kim Il-song of North Korea. It is he who advises and sponsors Mugabe. Mugabe sees himself as infallible. When things go wrong, others take the blame. But, how can this be when Mugabe is an omnipotent know-it-all? He is the eyes and ears of the nation. Politics is like taking a bath. One cannot expect to get in the water and still remain dry.

George Orwell has written a book on prisons, to be released in 1984. [sentence as heard] The book is entitled "Double Think." [sentence as heard] This means taking two schools of thought and merging them into one. This is like calling black white and white black. This is impossible, as you also realize, black is black, white is white. Mugabe and his rear end [word indistinct--possible obscenity] want us to believe this. He imagines himself to be the almighty of Zimbabwe. Most of Zimbabwe is not communist in origin. It is difficult to merge two schools of thought that are unrelated. Zimbabwe is in danger of being torn apart in the very near future. The shortage of essential commodities in the country is basically the fault of the government, which employs double standards concerning trade with South Africa.

It is not the fault of the press that there is no longer a flow of foreign exchange into Zimbabwe. It is the fault of the government, because it is the one that chases away investors.

The Government of Zimbabwe is to blame for everything because of its socialist policies. The Government of Zimbabwe is 50 times as bad as that of Idi Amin. People live under the constant threat of the Fifth Brigade, the secret police, and the CIO, and therefore, cannot oppose the government. It is not a pleasant thing to be rudely awakened in the middle of the night and taken to the isolated camps where harrassment and killings are prevalent. All this is typical of every oppressor.

People of Zimbabwe, the time has come for all of you to wake up and face the truth. The dreams of Zimbabwe have been extinguished. The country is following in the footsteps of Tanzania, Mozambique, China, and the CAR, which are good examples of countries ruled by oppressors and uneducated soldiers who earn their keep by begging. [end Ndebele]

[Musical interlude; commentary continues in English] As a thought before we sign off tonight, might we point out that detention as it is practiced in Zimbabwe is only practiced in dictatorships and nowhere else. We would like you to think about this fact because it is vitally important, particularly as Zimbabwe draws ever nearer to being a one-party state. You may think right now that you are safe and a good party man, but what about tomorrow? ZANU-PF is torn from top to bottom with tribalism and factionalism. To praise Mugabe today may help get you into detention tomorrow if one of the other leaders stages a coup. To sing the praises of ZANU-PF will soon not be enough.

Soon, if the communist trend continues, you will be required to donate part of your earnings to ZANU-PF. The party will also demand that you attend lectures on communism after work, that you attend hundreds of parades, rallies, and addresses by leaders. Soon, very soon, they will want your very soul as proof of your adoration. If you are like most normal human beings, somewhere along the way you will cry "enough," and that is when the doors of the detention camp will swing open for you. Think about this as you settle down to sleep tonight.